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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable GARY PETERS, a Senator from the State of Michigan.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank You for the throb of eternity within us, reminding us that life is not measured by mere heartbeats. Lord, we are grateful also that You continue to guide our Nation and world. As You guide the migration of birds, so Your hand guides us. Help us on our journey to be warned from our past mistakes, as we continue to believe that the price for freedom remains eternal vigilance. Lead us away from the illusion that we are standing strong and cannot repeat past failures.

Lord, keep our lawmakers faithful to You and this land we love. May they strive to have a clear conscience before You and the people.

And, Lord, we continue to pray for Ukraine.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 7, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable GARY PETERS, a Senator from the State of Michigan, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PETERS thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 4022

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title of the bill for a second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4022) to codify in statute the CDC title 42 expulsion order, which suspends the right for certain aliens to enter the United States land borders, until February 1, 2025.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

NOMINATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, the Senate gavel in this morning for a joyous, momentous, groundbreaking day. This morning, we will vote to end debate on the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to be a Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, and, later this afternoon, the Senate will fulfill its constitutional duty to finally confirm this remarkable and groundbreaking jurist.

The cloture vote is scheduled to take place at approximately 11 a.m., and we will aim to vote on final confirmation in the afternoon, the time depending on how many Members wish to speak.

Today is a culmination—a culmination for more than 6 weeks where this Chamber has examined and debated and questioned Judge Jackson on her record and her qualifications. Every step of the way the judge has proved herself exceptionally qualified, thoughtful, and prepared to serve on the Court. As I said, she encapsulates the three b's: brilliant, beloved, and belongs. She belongs on the Supreme Court. It is now up to us to finish the work that the President entrusted us to do.

So today is also a joyous celebration in another way. In the 233-year history of the Supreme Court, never, never has a Black woman held the title of Justice. Ketanji Brown Jackson will be the first, and I believe the first of more to come.

This milestone should have happened generations ago—generations ago—but we are always trodding on a path toward a more perfect Union. Nevertheless, America today is taking a giant step toward making our Union more perfect.

People sometimes talk about standing on the shoulder of giants. Well, Judge Jackson will go down in history as an American giant upon whose shoulders others will stand tall, and our democracy will be better off for it.

• This “buller” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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I will have more to say later this afternoon, prior to the final vote on the confirmation, but for now I want to thank Chairman DURBIN of the Senate Judiciary Committee for beautifully executing the nomination, all the members of the Judiciary Committee for their thoughtful and respectful—all my Democratic colleagues on the Judiciary Committee for their thoughtful and insightful examination of the judge's record, and I want to thank those Republican Senators who chose to take this process seriously.

So it is truly a joyous day; joyous for the Senate, joyous for the Court, joyous for America.

Let us finish the work today of confirming Judge Jackson, finally, to the Supreme Court of the United States.

PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, on the final day of the work period, the Senate is going to pass a much sought after piece of legislation: revoking Russia of permanent normal trade relations with the United States.

The legislation will go a long way to landing a painful, severe blow on Putin's economy. It will hinder his ability to keep funding his war machine, and adds Russia, as well as Belarus, to a list of nations, including North Korea, that are ineligible for free trade with the United States.

I want to thank my colleague from Idaho Senator CRAPO for working so closely with me on into the night last night to make sure that this got done.

We will also vote separately on legislation regarding an oil ban, and I thank my colleagues who worked together to reach a compromise on this measure. We are moving forward today.

Putin must absolutely be held accountable for the detestable and despicable war crimes he is committing against Ukraine.

The images we have seen coming out of that country, most recently out of the town of Bucha, are pure, pure evil—hundreds of civilians murdered in cold blood; dozens of bodies of men, women, children, the elderly, the defenseless; people with hands tied behind their backs and left dead in the streets. Some of the bodies showed signs of torture.

According to a new report by Der Spiegel, German intelligence now believes that some of these murders were discussed by Russian troops over radio intercepts. And why were these people killed? Simply because they were Ukrainians. So many were children, civilians, young people, women. No nation whose military is committing war crimes deserves free-trade status with the United States.

Let me say that again. No nation whose military is committing war crimes deserves free-trade status with the United States.

No vile thug like Putin deserves to stand as an equal with the leaders of

the free world. He is a menace and a pariah who has ensured that his place in history will be one of everlasting shame.

So today's votes approving PNTR revocation are significant. It is very important that the Senate pass this bill, and I want to thank Senator CRAPO as well as Senators MANCHIN and CARDIN and WYDEN and MURKOWSKI and MENENDEZ and all others who worked in good faith with us together on these measures. We wouldn't have reached this outcome without their diligence and good faith.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, I want to close with a few thoughts on what the Senate has accomplished over the past 6 weeks.

There are two words that I believe perfectly summarize the work period we are about to conclude: productive and bipartisan.

In this work period alone, we passed a major postal reform bill over a decade in the making; we passed a bold and robust government funding package, which will help millions of Americans in thousands of different ways; we passed critical emergency aid for the people of Ukraine; we passed the Emmett Till anti-lynching bill after a century of waiting; and topping it all off, we will confirm the 116th Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, before I yield, I also want to applaud the administration's action in extending the pause on payments and interest of Federal student loans. The pandemic continues to impact families economically, and that is why extension is critical for so many borrowers.

And while the extension provides relief, I continue to urge the President to use his existing authority and cancel up to \$50,000 in debt in order to provide immediate relief to millions of borrowers, boost our economic recovery, and help narrow the racial wealth gap in our country.

So it has been a very busy April; it has been a very busy March work period, and when we come back in May, it is going to be very busy again. We have a whole lot to do.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the follow nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oregon.

PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am going to be very brief, and I want to echo what the majority leader said, particularly with respect to revoking permanent normal trade relations with Russia.

The Senate, and those who are following this, should understand that in just a few minutes, the Senate is going to take another crucial step in bringing every tool of economic pressure to bear on Vladimir Putin and his oligarch allies. Ending normal trade relations hammers home that Putin has made Russia into a full-fledged pariah state.

As the leader noted, Americans have been watching these atrocities—these brutal acts perpetrated by Vladimir Putin—day after day—on TV, phones, and the like—and now the Senate is saying “there is going to be clear, clear, clear evidence that what he has done has forfeited the right to normal trade relations.”

And I will just wrap up by way of saying that when we get done, on the Senate Finance Committee, we are going to continue to work in a bipartisan way to send Putin additional messages that are going to rein in his economic power.

In particular, I think it is high time to take away the subsidies he gets from American taxpayers for his war machine. That happens when you have American companies doing business in Russia. They pay taxes to the Russian Government, and they get foreign tax credits. I don't believe the people of Michigan or Oregon or anywhere else believe that their tax dollars—their hard-earned tax dollars—should be used to subsidize Putin's war machine.

So this is a very important step today towards making sure, as I indicated, we are putting in place every single economic tool to hammer Putin and his oligarchs.

I urge my colleagues, as Senator SCHUMER has just done, to vote yes, and I also want to thank the ranking member of the Finance Committee. I talked to him a few minutes ago. He continues to do everything he can, every step of the way, to make this a bipartisan effort.

That is the message we ought to send. I urge colleagues to vote yes when we take away normal trade relations from Russia here in a few minutes.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL (Ms. ROSEN). Madam President, I ask unanimous

consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, here is a quote from Candidate Biden's campaign website in 2020:

The U.S. has a right and a duty to secure our borders and protect our people against threats.

Well, that was then; this is now.

The Biden administration's weak border policies set a new record in 2021. Customs and Border Protection had to make—listen to this—2 million—2 million—arrests, and it doesn't appear that that new record will last long; 2022 is already trending even worse.

CBP is currently seeing about 7,000 encounters every single day, and they fear they could see as many as 18,000 per day—a truly staggering figure.

To put this in perspective, President Obama's former DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson has reflected that a daily count above 1,000—above 1,000—was “a relatively bad number, and I was gonna be in a bad mood the whole day,” reflecting back on his experience.

Now we are at seven times that figure and still climbing. It is a President's responsibility to fix this crisis, but this President is taking major steps to make it even worse.

The Biden administration has announced they will cancel legal authorities that have helped CBP contend with these massive surges. A group of States led by Arizona have explained in court that title 42 is “the only safety valve preventing this Administration's disastrous border policies from devolving into an unmitigated catastrophe.”

The administration's attempts to explain why they are caving to the far left and throwing our borders open make no sense whatsoever. The White House keeps claiming this is a public health decision; they cannot keep title 42—leading you to ask, why?

Democrats don't act like they think COVID is finished. They give speeches daily about the need for more funding. They say we should be sending health assistance around the rest of the world. The only place on the planet where Democrats say COVID is over apparently is at our southern border.

A growing number of House and Senate Democrats have expressed concern and anger over President Biden's awful decision. But press releases are one thing. What matters is how people vote.

Senate Democrats have taken every meaningful opportunity to back the administration's border policies and vote down Republican efforts to improve security. Their votes have helped create this mess. We will see if they finally change course and begin voting to help Republicans end the crisis instead.

BUDGET

Madam President, now on another matter, last week, President Biden re-

leased his budget request for next year. The President got to take a blank canvas and sketch his policy vision for the country. But in the critical area of defending our Nation, the President's vision came up way, way short.

Even amidst a hot war in Europe, bipartisan recognition of threats from China, North Korean nuclear and missile proliferation, and Iran's nuclear, missile, and terrorism trifecta, President Biden proposes to underfund our Armed Forces.

Even if Democrats manage to magically get their runaway inflation under control faster than anyone predicts, their proposal would only flat-fund defense. While China keeps ramping their military spending way up, the Biden budget would have America treading water, at best. More likely, if Democrats' high inflation sticks around, the President's proposal would actually cut the military's purchasing power.

As we speak, Secretary Austin, General Milley, and DOD Comptroller Michael McCord are testifying before the Armed Services Committee to provide some answers about their boss's baffling budget request. These senior leaders have a responsibility to be strong advocates within the administration for the resources that our servicemembers actually need.

When the far-left wanted President Obama to slash military spending, Secretary Leon Panetta waged an impassioned public and private campaign to stick up for our national defense. But if Secretary Austin is advocating for the military's bottom line, he is not doing it very effectively. The administration's proposed defense increase of 4 percent before inflation doesn't come anywhere near meeting our military's requirements to compete with China and preserve peace well into the future.

Yet the same budget lavishes a gigantic—gigantic—14-percent increase on domestic discretionary spending. If our colleague Chairman SANDERS wrote a budget and gave the Pentagon zero input or influence, it might not look much different than the administration's actual product.

So, the world is a dangerous place. China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and other adversaries remind us of this basic fact every single day. Our Commander in Chief needs to get with the program.

NOMINATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Madam President, now, on one final matter. The last few weeks have confirmed a pattern that has played out repeatedly in recent decades. When Republican Presidents make Supreme Court nominations, the far-left and the media melt down. Absurd allegations, conspiracy theories, cheap gimmicks, and apocalyptic rhetoric are all guaranteed. But when Democratic Presidents make nominations, Senate Republicans inquire about past rulings and judicial philosophies, and the country gets the serious process it deserves.

On Tuesday, I explained how 30 years of escalation by Democrats ushered in

this assertive period for the Senate regarding judicial nominations. Now and for the foreseeable future, the Senate views itself as a co-partner in the process.

On Wednesday, I walked through Judge Jackson's long and disturbing record of using judicial activism to go soft on crime. Today, I need to discuss how these disagreements affect the very bedrock of our Republic.

For multiple years now, the Democratic Party has waged an aggressive campaign to bully our independent justice system and attack the legitimacy of their institution. When the plain text of our laws and Constitution disappoint liberals' policy preferences, they mount radical campaigns to wreck the Court itself. This civic cancer began on the fringe, but it has quickly metastasized throughout their party.

Three years ago, sitting Senate Democrats sent the Court an absurd amicus brief, threatening retribution for a certain ruling. Two years ago, the Democratic leader rallied with radicals on the Court's steps and threatened multiple Justices by name if they didn't produce the policy result he preferred.

Last year, when fringe activists wanted to dig up the discredited concept of partisan court packing, President Biden lent it legitimacy with a Presidential commission. Now, just recently, the Senate Democratic whip said that his side's court-packing proposals don't matter because they lack 60 votes to pass the Senate. Well, that was cold comfort considering the Senator just voted to destroy the 60-vote threshold a few months back.

So this nomination has occurred against a strange, strange backdrop. The Senate Democrats, who spent weeks—weeks—fulsomely praising Judge Jackson, have spent years attacking her soon-to-be workplace.

This is why I needed to hear Judge Jackson denounce court packing. Justices Ginsburg and Breyer had no trouble—none—condemning these schemes loudly as sitting Justices. Surely President Biden could find himself an institutionalist in their mold.

But, alas, Judge Jackson was the court packers' favorite pick for the vacancy, and she refused to follow the Ginsburg-Breyer model. She signaled the opposite. She said she would be “thrilled to be one of however many”—“one of however many.”

The left's escalating war against the judiciary is a symptom of a profound misunderstanding. Judicial activism sees the Court as a third legislature. The left wants one policymaking body with 435 Members, one with 100, and one that consists of nine lawyers.

Let me say that again.

The left wants one policymaking body with 435 Members, one with 100, and one that consists of nine lawyers. That isn't what the Founders created, and it is not what the American people signed up for.

We have seen over and over that when judicial activism triumphs over fidelity to the rule of law, our courts mutate—mutate—into clumsy proxy battlefields for arguments that belong in this Chamber and out in 50 State legislatures. This is unfair to the American people, and it damages our institutions, not the least the courts themselves.

So there is only one way to lower the temperature, depoliticize the courts, and protect the rule of law: confirming only judges who will honor the Constitution and not supplant it.

The road to a healthy Court and a healthy country is not striking some balance where some Justices stick to the text and some Justices try to make policy. The solution is for all the Justices to stay in their lane.

There is one right number of Justices who seek to follow the law. The number is nine. Ginsburg said it. Breyer said it. There is one right number of Justices who seek to make policy: zero.

There are jurists and scholars with personal views across the political spectrum who understand that all judges should be textualists and constitutionalists in their day jobs. And that must be the Senate's standard.

I see hallmarks of judicial activism in Judge Jackson's record; and, therefore, I will vote no. Nevertheless, our Democratic colleagues are on track to confirm our next Supreme Court Justice.

And do you know what won't happen? Top Republicans will not imply she is illegitimate. We will not call for court packing. I won't be joining any mobs outside her new workplace and threatening her by name.

Democrats must stop their political siege of the institution that Judge Jackson is about to join. They must stop their assault on judicial independence.

We are about to have a new Justice whose fan club has openly attacked the rule of law. So Judge Jackson will quickly face a fork in the road. One approach to her new job would delight the far left. A different approach would honor the separation of powers and the Constitution. The soon-to-be Justice can either satisfy her radical fan club or help preserve the judiciary that Americans need—but not both.

I am afraid the nominee's record tells us which is likely. But I hope Judge Jackson proves me wrong.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

SUSPENDING ENERGY IMPORTS FROM RUSSIA ACT

SUSPENDING NORMAL TRADE RE- LATIONS WITH RUSSIA AND BELARUS ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session and proceed to

the consideration of H.R. 6968 and H.R. 7108 en bloc, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6968) to prohibit the importation of energy products of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 7108) to suspend normal trade relations treatment for the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, amendment No. 5021 to H.R. 6968 and amendment No. 5020 to H.R. 7108 are agreed to, and the bills, as amended, are considered and read a third time.

The amendment (No. 5021), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of April 6, 2022, under "Text of Amendments.")

The amendment (No. 5020), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of April 6, 2022, under "Text of Amendments.")

The amendments were ordered to be engrossed and the bills to be read a third time en bloc.

The bills were read the third time.

VOTE ON H.R. 7108, AS AMENDED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. CRAPO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 131 Leg.]

YEAS—100

Baldwin	Hagerty	Portman
Barrasso	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Hawley	Risch
Blackburn	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blunt	Hirono	Rounds
Booker	Hoeben	Rubio
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Braun	Inhofe	Sasse
Brown	Johnson	Schatz
Burr	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Shelby
Casey	Lankford	Sinema
Cassidy	Leahy	Smith
Collins	Lee	Stabenow
Coons	Lujan	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lummis	Tester
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Thune
Cotton	Markey	Tillis
Cramer	Marshall	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Cruz	Menendez	Van Hollen
Daines	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Moran	Warnock
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Ernst	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wicker
Fischer	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	Young
Graham	Paul	
Grassley	Peters	

The bill (H.R. 7108), as amended, was passed.

VOTE ON H.R. 6968, AS AMENDED

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 132 Leg.]

YEAS—100

Baldwin	Hagerty	Portman
Barrasso	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Hawley	Risch
Blackburn	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blunt	Hirono	Rounds
Booker	Hoeben	Rubio
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Braun	Inhofe	Sasse
Brown	Johnson	Schatz
Burr	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Shelby
Casey	Lankford	Sinema
Cassidy	Leahy	Smith
Collins	Lee	Stabenow
Coons	Lujan	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lummis	Tester
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Thune
Cotton	Markey	Tillis
Cramer	Marshall	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Cruz	Menendez	Van Hollen
Daines	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Moran	Warnock
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Ernst	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wicker
Fischer	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	Young
Graham	Paul	
Grassley	Peters	

The bill (H.R. 6968), as amended, was passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 860, Ketanji Brown Jackson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Patrick J. Leahy, Dianne Feinstein, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher A. Coons, Richard Blumenthal, Mazie Hirono, Cory A. Booker, Alex Padilla, Jon Ossoff, Patty Murray, Raphael G. Warnock, Sherrod Brown, Elizabeth Warren, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tina Smith, Ben Ray Lujan, Jacky Rosen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 133 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Romney
Blumenthal	Kaine	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Lujan	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Collins	Markey	Stabenow
Coons	Menendez	Tester
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Rounds
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hoeven	Sasse
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Lummis	Toomey
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Paul	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

The senior Senator from Vermont.

NOMINATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today is a historic day. Today, each Member of the Senate will have the opportunity to cast a vote on the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to be an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. I say “historic” because throughout our Nation’s history, only 115 people have served on the Supreme Court. Until now, only five of the Supreme Court Justices have been women. Only two of the Justices have been Black. And none has been a Black woman. So history, indeed, and long overdue.

But I am not going to cast my vote in support of Judge Jackson’s confirmation because she is a woman or because she is Black; I will cast that vote because she is eminently qualified to serve in the position to which she has been nominated.

Her nomination shouldn’t just be welcomed; it should be celebrated. It is a major step forward for our democracy. It is further widening the lens to

help make our Nation more inclusive and more representative with each passing generation.

She is one of the most qualified nominees to the Supreme Court that I have ever considered in my 48 years here: a graduate of Harvard and Harvard Law School; a judicial clerk at the district, circuit, and Supreme Court levels; a Federal appellate judge; a Federal district court judge; a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission; an attorney in private practice. And she will be the first ever Justice who has served as a public defender, bringing that much needed perspective to the Court. No one—no one—can argue that Judge Jackson is not objectively qualified to be confirmed.

The manufactured accusations that were thrown at her by some of our committee during our hearings not only fell flat, but they have been refuted and debunked by serious voices across the political spectrum. They hold no water. They serve only to showcase the vitriol and the contempt with which some Members of this body approach their sacred constitutional role of advice and consent.

I said it during the hearings, and I will say it again: It is distressing, it is disheartening, and as the dean of the Senate, it is saddening. Yet I find hope in the fact that Judge Jackson’s confirmation to our highest Court will have the bipartisan support it deserves and it commands. I commend the Republican Senators who have lauded her qualifications and staked their support of her nomination. Judge Jackson has earned the President’s nomination, and she has earned confirmation from the Senate.

Each and every day, millions of American families are living their lives, and how they live those lives—from the salaries they make to the education their children receive and scores of issues in between—is directly impacted by the decisions made at the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court—in fact, all of our courts can’t be ivory towers, accessible only to and bending to the will of a select few in our society. They have to be accountable to all—all—all Americans. To do so, they must reflect the diversity of our Nation, the diversity that is at the foundation of our democracy—diversity of gender, of race, of creed, of education and history—but also diversity of thought and life experiences. Judge Jackson brings that and more to the Bench.

Mr. President, I am proud to be the President pro tempore of the Senate, and I was proud to chair the Senate Judiciary Committee in the past. In that regard, I voted for the first woman to ever serve on the Supreme Court. I voted for the first Latina to serve on the Supreme Court. I voted on thousands of judicial nominations, nominees of both Republican and Democratic Presidents. I voted for nominations to the Supreme Court who were put forward by Republican Presidents.

I have long lamented the increasing political gamesmanship that has infected our current confirmation process, and many times on this floor, I have warned about the dire consequences for our courts and for our democracy of converting our confirmation process into a zero-sum game where one party wins and one party loses. But to change that gamesmanship requires that we have some adults in the room, that we all come here to the floor of the U.S. Senate not to score a headline or a trending tweet but simply to do our jobs. There are only 100 of us to represent this whole country. So who is going to do that today, simply do their job?

I have taken a clear look at Judge Jackson’s record. I heard her testimony 2 weeks ago. I met with her. I read opinions that she has written. I spent hours listening to her. I saw her intellect, her humility, and her temperament on full display.

Mr. President, she is the Justice we need now. For America today, for the generations to come, for our children and our grandchildren, for all of us, I will cast my vote to confirm Judge Jackson, and I will do it proudly.

I hope the Senate can rise to this moment. I hope it can be the deliberative body the Founders envisioned when they conceived of this great experiment. Our independent judiciary—in fact, our democracy—demands it of us.

Mr. President, history will remember the votes cast here today. I will proudly vote aye.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, I rise today to express my joy in voting to confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court.

What a great day it is for the United States of America, for our system of government and the grand march toward the fulfillment of the sacred covenant we have with one another as an American people—“e pluribus unum”: out of many, one.

Ketanji Brown Jackson’s improbable journey to the Nation’s highest Court is a reflection of our own journey, through fits and starts, toward the Nation’s highest ideals. She embodies the arc of our history. The very fine product of public schools, both her parents attended segregated primary schools before graduating from historically Black colleges and universities.

She is a two-time graduate of Harvard; a former clerk to Supreme Court Justice Breyer, to whom the Nation owes enormous thanks for his decades of public service; a former Federal public defender who would be the first of her kind to serve on the Supreme Court; a jurist who has gone before the Senate on three separate occasions and each time has garnered strong bipartisan support; a judge who has heard cases both in the U.S. district court and our Federal court of appeals; a judge who has the strong endorsement

of critical stakeholders from across our justice system. From the American Bar Association to those who advocate for civil rights, to organizations representing our Nation's brave law enforcement officers, all of them respect Ketanji Brown Jackson.

She is a wife and a working mom. She is America at its best. That, I believe in my heart after meeting with her in my office, talking to folks whom I trust who know her, and hearing her testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Under intense questioning before the committee—much of it appropriate and necessary; some of it outrageous and beyond the pale—she demonstrated her legal acumen, sharp intellect, and the kind of temperament we need on the Bench, especially at a time like this. If there were any doubts about her character, she more than proved her poise, her skill, composure, and the depth of her patriotism through the process—amazing grace under pressure.

As a voice for Georgians in the Senate, I have said from the beginning that people in my State want someone on the Court who is fair, eminently qualified, and has a record of protecting the constitutional rights and freedoms of Georgians and Americans. That is why my office has received thousands of emails and phone calls from Georgians in every corner of our State voicing their support for Judge Jackson's confirmation.

After hearing from Georgians and thoroughly evaluating her nomination, I am ecstatic to say that Judge Jackson is an excellent jurist who has the temperament and discernment to sit on our Nation's highest Court.

The people of Georgia made this appointment possible by making history last year. So in addition to thanking Georgia for this moment, I want to acknowledge that the historic nature of her appointment isn't lost on me. Like my brother Senator BOOKER, I know what it has taken for Judge Jackson to get to this moment, and nobody is going to steal my joy.

Yes, I am a Senator; I am a pastor, but beyond all of that, I am the father of a young Black girl. I know how much it means for Judge Jackson to have navigated the double jeopardy of racism and sexism to now stand in the glory of this moment in all of her excellence. For my 5-year-old daughter and for so many young women in our country—but, really, if we are thinking about it right, for all of us—seeing Judge Jackson ascend to the Supreme Court reflects the promise of progress on which our democracy rests.

So what a great day it is in America. Today, the word of justice and equal protection under the law becomes flesh and lives among us in new ways. Today, at the highest levels of our government, the administration of our Constitution looks a little bit more like what it says. And it fills me with great pride for our country, how far we have come and what we can achieve together.

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is beyond qualified, and I am beyond thrilled to speak for Georgia in voting to confirm her to the U.S. Supreme Court.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3609

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, while we all gather to acknowledge this historic day and prepare to vote to—in my case, at least—confirm Judge Jackson, I rise to bring up another issue. I rise today to urge my colleagues to pass into law commonsense legislation to bring down oil and gas costs for Americans.

As many of my colleagues have discussed on this floor, Americans across the country, including in my State of New Hampshire, are facing higher costs from the grocery store to the gas pump. As we work together to build a stronger, more resilient economy that strengthens our supply chains and invests in American manufacturing, we must also bring relief to American families right now, an issue that has become even more urgent in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has sent gas prices soaring.

As we continue to counter Putin's aggression and inflationary challenges facing our economy, we have an obligation to work together to bring down costs.

That is why I am working to hold Big Oil accountable for profiting off of the pain that Americans are experiencing at the pump. That is why I pushed the administration to release oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, an action I was glad to see the administration take, again, just last week. As we look at all options to bring down costs, one clear way to provide immediate relief is by suspending the gas tax for the remainder of this year.

Earlier this year, my colleagues and I introduced a bill to do exactly that. The Gas Prices Relief Act will temporarily suspend the Federal gas tax through the end of the year, helping bring economic relief to families.

As in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3609; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Reserving my right to object, let me begin by saying my friends and colleagues across the aisle are right about one thing: Gas prices are incredibly higher right now in this country.

The effort to blame this on what has happened in Ukraine, however, overlooks the real cause of the phenomenal rise in gas prices that we have seen for a year before Putin even invaded. Definitely, the invasion did increase pres-

sure on gas prices, but the problem is that this administration's policies have dramatically reduced the supply in the United States and Americans across this country know how supply and demand impacts price.

The gas tax holiday that is now being proposed is not a solution; it is a political gimmick that would not stop skyrocketing gas prices or inflation. In fact, Larry Summers said in a Wall Street Journal podcast:

I think a gas tax idea is saved only by its triviality from being one of the worst public policy ideas of the decade. It will have little effect over any reasonable horizon on gas prices. It will be counterproductive from an environmental point of view. It is the ultimate policy gimmick.

Rather than accept responsibility for 14 months of reckless spending or the more than 40-percent increase in gas prices that had already occurred before the Russian invasion, Democrats want to blame higher gas prices on the Russian invasion or corporate greed. They also want to ignore the consequences of their relentless attacks on the American oil and gas industry, the administration's overly bureaucratic permit and regulatory process for domestic energy production, and the misguided policy decisions like canceling the Keystone XL Pipeline.

The solution to rising gas prices is not a tax holiday, which would offer little relief but threaten infrastructure investments and worsen our national debt situation; nor is the solution a tax on American companies who increase their production of oil and gas to try to help us become more energy independent; nor is it stimulus checks, which have the potential, as the past ones have, to increase gas prices even further and push inflation even higher; nor is it to encourage other hostile regimes to produce more oil.

The only lasting solution to our current problems is to bolster American oil and gas production to replace not only Russian imports but to facilitate exports to support our allies and end their dependence on Russia. Indeed, I, along with a number of my Republican colleagues, have sponsored proposals to enhance energy independence and undo many of President Biden's misguided energy policies.

Republicans believe we can and should be doing more to unleash America's domestic energy potential, reduce reliance on volatile foreign actors like Russia, and deliver cost savings to middle-class families across the country. Hard-working American families need real relief, not political gimmicks, and that is why I oppose this gas tax holiday.

I urge my Democratic colleagues to abandon the reckless spending-and-tax policies that have already failed but which seem to be contemplated in the President's newly reintroduced budget and support proposals that will actually lower prices for everyday Americans. For those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Ms. HASSAN. Before I wrap up, I just want to point out what you just heard—what the American people have just heard—is talking points straight out of Big Oil's playbook.

A gas tax holiday is a commonsense solution that would provide immediate relief for Granite Staters and Americans all over the country. Big Oil holds thousands of unused permits at their fingertips that they could use right now to increase supply. Instead, what is happening is Big Oil is padding its pockets at the expense of Americans.

Let's be clear. This would not take a dime out of the highway trust fund because this bill instructs Treasury to replenish the trust fund, something it has done half a dozen times in about the last decade. This is something that has bipartisan support across the country—Democratic and Republican Governors, Democratic and Republican legislators are moving to suspend their gas taxes. This is something we could do right now to help American families balance their budgets and make ends meet.

While I am disappointed to see my colleague block this critical legislation, I will keep working to bring down costs for American families and get this bill passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the Jackson nomination expire at 1:45 p.m. today.

For the information of the Senate, there will be a rollcall vote at 1:45 p.m. today on confirmation of the nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Senators are encouraged to be seated prior to the start of the vote and are encouraged to cast their vote from their desks.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Senator from Louisiana.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise to speak about saving school choice or, perhaps, parental choice.

Some students learn differently than others do. I am the parent of a child with dyslexia. I can tell you that any such parent knows one-size-fits-all education does not work.

Parents and students should have the ability to choose the learning environment that is best for that child, and I think the parent can make the choice better than the school board and certainly better than bureaucrats in the Department of Education here in Washington, DC.

The charter school program was created by Congress for that exact purpose: To ensure that parents could choose what is best for their child. Power to the parent. Giving parents the power is crucial to allowing every student to succeed.

Unfortunately, there are groups working to undermine the power the

parent should have to choose their child's school.

The U.S. Department of Education has decided to disregard what is in the best interest of the student with a new proposed rule that adds new requirements for applicants completely unrelated to student outcomes. Applicants would have to demonstrate an unmet need for a charter school, provide evidence of overenrollment at existing public schools in order to establish a charter school.

It seems as if the Department of Education is putting up arbitrary barriers to opening a charter school simply out of prejudice. They don't want the parent to have the power.

Our country's charter schools are under threat from the far left and from teachers unions who seek to shut them down because charter school staffs are difficult to unionize.

Now, these unions know it is much harder to spread their influence in charter schools; and in some cases, it is, frankly, impossible for a charter school to unionize. And the giant unions see this as a simple problem. They know the more charter schools there are, the less revenue they get. So their solution is equally as simple, take power away from parents with layers of new bureaucracy and government regulation. We should not let that happen.

And let's just put this in perspective. Since the pandemic began, it has been public charter schools that have seen a substantial increase in demand. They opened up sooner, and they stayed open in larger numbers than traditional public schools. And we know that open schools are better for children. Parents should have the power to send their child to a school where they feel like they, the parent, have a voice, and where they know their child is more likely to succeed.

Now, let's be clear who this rule is written for—not for the parent and not for the child. It is not written to help the student. It is written to help unions exercise more control over a student's life. This rule makes no mention of how many of these new restrictions improve student achievement or actually help students. And at a time when students are falling behind in record numbers, we need new and innovative approaches to our education system, not just hand the keys over to a special interest group. The truth is, these rules give less choice to families, will hold students back, and do more harm than good.

Now, the charter school program has enjoyed bipartisan support for nearly 30 years. Any substantial change to the program should go through Congress and receive thoughtful consideration. And parent choice for the school their child attends should not be gutted by an informal committee of union employees and education department officials.

Those of us who care about the student, those of us who see the role of

charter schools, we have one message to Secretary of Education Cardona: Back off of our charter schools.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT J. WRIGHT

Mr. President, I want to take a moment to recognize the career of a beloved and trusted Louisiana journalist, radio host, and friend to all, Robert J. Wright of Shreveport, LA. After 50 years of radio, Robert announced he retires later this month. His last day is Friday, April 29, 1 day after his 70th birthday—a well-earned retirement. Robert is a masterful storyteller and a critical thinker, always finding the other side of a story. He has been a voice of reason and always looking for the truth. He took his first job in radio while attending LSU Shreveport. As he says: "It was indoors, and you didn't have to carry stuff"—about as good a summary of a good job as you could ever ask.

He went on to host morning shows in Philadelphia, Cleveland, and Orlando before eventually moving back to Shreveport in 1996. That is when he first teamed up with his long-term cohost, Erin McCarty, to start their morning show that has been a part of Northwest Louisiana's morning commute for over 25 years.

He and McCarty moved their show and has been the "Townsquare" of Shreveport on KEEL ever since. To say that he will be missed is an understatement. Their show has been as much a part of many in Northwest Louisiana's daily routine as a morning cup of coffee. When you interview with Robert, it is clear you are speaking with someone who cares about the issues facing his community, just as much as usual. He has earned the time and trust of his listeners.

So congratulations to Robert J. Wright on an impressive and meaningful career. Robert, I can tell you there are many who are pretty upset about this news, and that is a testament to the positive impact you have had on our community.

Robert, we of Louisiana wish you a happy and well-earned retirement.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator for Iowa.

NOMINATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mr. GRASSLEY. Soon, we will be voting on Judge Jackson's nomination, and I would like to explain why I am voting against her appointment to the Supreme Court.

Since the White House announced Judge Jackson's nomination, I have emphasized the need for a thorough and fair process. Unfortunately, the majority party weren't concerned about the rigorous examination of her record. The White House and the majority party have shielded important information. We don't have any non-public document from her time at the Sentencing Commission, and the Obama White House held back more than 48,000 pages.

Judge Jackson also gave the White House confidential, nonpublic probation recommendations for some of her

cases, but when we asked about a probation document filed on the Hawkins case, Judge Jackson claimed that she was not able to access records for her old cases because that was allegedly because she was no longer on the district court. And we now know that she sits on the DC Circuit Court of Appeals.

Now, if that is true, there are many unanswered questions about how information the White House thought was helpful was so easily obtained. So we should take into account that all the helpful information has already been leaked.

That brings me to the merits of Judge Jackson's nomination. For judicial nominees, their philosophy ought to decide—how to decide cases ought to be a primary consideration.

Part of having a judicial philosophy is having an understanding of the fundamental principles of our Constitution. Natural rights are a part of that system. Judge Jackson explained to us that she does not “hold a position on whether individuals possess natural rights.”

Now, that ought to be very shocking. Natural rights are basic to our constitutional system and principles of limited government. Because we all know our country was founded on the belief that is expressed in the Declaration of Independence:

All men are created equal [and] they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are the Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

And that was further nailed down in the Constitution of the United States.

Our Constitution vests the three branches of government with very limited power. All other powers not given to the Federal Government are reserved for the States and to the people thereof.

The principle of limited government is what makes America an exceptional nation and sets our Constitution apart. Judges must have a proper understanding of those basic principles; and the way Judge Jackson answered those questions, particularly the answers she gave to Senator CRUZ, shows that she lacks that very necessary foundation.

Now, I want to go on to a few other examples. At the hearing, Judge Jackson testified about one of her decisions involving the First Step Act. In that case, prosecutors had rock-solid evidence against a dangerous drug kingpin, but Judge Jackson was displeased the government pursued a mandatory minimum sentence.

So she misused a motion for compassionate release to resentence that person to a sentence she thought he deserved.

As the lead author of the First Step Act, I know that is not what we wrote the statute to do. The act was supposed to allow elderly inmates and those suffering from terminal illness to petition the court for a sentence reduction. The statute also allows for a reduction if the court finds an “extraordinary and compelling reason.”

Judges should use great discretion. Judges should weigh against the charge, the dangers to society, and the risk of recidivism.

At her hearing, Judge Jackson said that she based her “extraordinary and compelling” finding on the nonretroactive changes to the law. This radical interpretation is terrible and dangerous.

Congress chose which provisions the First Step Act would apply retroactively. The Senate is currently considering legislation that I cosponsored with Chairman DURBIN that makes some of the First Step Act provisions retroactive, but that is Congress's role, not Judge Jackson's role.

Senator DURBIN and I wouldn't have been able to broker a compromise on that legislation if Senators thought the judges would rewrite the law and insert their own views from the bench. Decisions like this will make bipartisan work, particularly on criminal justice reform, harder to do.

A case by the name of Young is just one example of Judge Jackson's lenient approach to criminal law and sentencing. She also declined to apply a number of sentencing enhancements that Congress put into the sentencing guidelines.

A case by the name of *Make the Road New York v. McAleenan* is another case that shows how Judge Jackson used her methodology to reach a result that contradicts the plain text of the law. Congress gave the Secretary of Homeland Security—and these are the words from the law—“sole and unreviewable discretion” to decide whether illegal immigrants should be subject to expedited removal within 2 years. Judge Jackson reviewed the Agency's decision anyway, and it seems clear why.

She went out of her lane to comment on the policy as, in her words, “a terrible proposal.” And she claimed that the government attorneys made an argument that “reeks of bad faith.” “Reeks of bad faith” are her words.

In fact, her decision and her rhetoric are unfounded. So that is why her decision earned a strong rebuke from the panel of liberal and conservative judges when she was reversed by the DC Circuit.

Judge Millett, an Obama appointee, explained it this way in the opinion:

[T]here could hardly be a more definitive expression of congressional intent [than] . . . “sole and unreviewable discretion.”

These are just a few examples of Judge Jackson's judicial activism. Because her record clearly shows she does not believe in or act within the limited and proper role of a judge, I will vote against her confirmation.

I yield the floor.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson to be an Associate Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. Based on my careful review of her record and experience, as well as my assessment of her character and judicial philosophy, I believe that she

warrants confirmation to the High Court.

The Constitution delineates the roles of the President and the Senate in nominating and confirming members of the Federal judiciary. Article II grants the President the power to nominate judges, and it gives the Senate the power of advice and consent for such nominations.

Evaluating a nominee to serve a lifetime appointment on the Supreme Court is one of the most consequential responsibilities of any Senator. Accordingly, I closely examine each nominee's qualifications, experience, writings, judicial philosophy, and personal integrity. One factor I do not consider is the political party of the nominating president.

I have spent the last several weeks reviewing Judge Jackson's record, both before and after she became a Federal judge. Prior to and after her hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Judge Jackson and I spent more than 2 and a half hours discussing her jurisprudence and approach to deciding cases. I explored her views on precedent and her understanding of the role that the judicial branch plays within our constitutional design.

I also watched Judge Jackson's confirmation hearing and, on numerous occasions, requested additional information from the White House and Senate Judiciary Committee.

There is no question that Judge Jackson is qualified to be a Supreme Court Justice. She has sterling academic and extensive professional credentials. She has been a Supreme Court clerk, an attorney in private practice, a Federal public defender, a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, and a Federal district court judge for more than 8 years. She now serves on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Her qualifications have been confirmed by the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, which has unanimously rated Judge Jackson as “Well Qualified”—its highest rating.

Having determined that Judge Jackson possesses the requisite qualifications and experience, my consideration of her nomination then turned to whether she has the judgment and approach to deciding cases that are necessary to serve on the Supreme Court.

Words that I spoke—years ago—when announcing my decision to vote to confirm Justice Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court remain my standard today: “I believe it is . . . critical for nominees to have a judicial philosophy that is devoid of prejudgment, partisanship, and preference. Only then will the decisions handed down from the bench be impartial and consistent with legal precedents and the constitutional foundations of our democratic system.”

Federal judges at all levels who are entrusted with lifetime appointments must avoid the temptation to exceed their constitutional role. That is particularly important for Supreme Court

Justices, who issue rulings from which there is no further opportunity for appeal.

Judge Jackson testified that, as a judge, she seeks to “decide cases from a neutral posture” and rules “without fear or favor, consistent with [her] judicial oath.” She also correctly acknowledged that the role of a judge “is a limited one” and that she is only empowered to “decide cases and controversies that are properly presented.” She added that her “judicial role is further constrained by careful adherence to precedent.”

During her hearing, Judge Jackson was asked whether she believes that the Constitution is a living document with a meaning that evolves over time. In response, she discussed the importance of “adherence to the text” and how her judicial powers are constrained by the meaning of the text at the “time of the founding.” She also explained that she does not believe in a “living Constitution,” rejecting the theory that it is a changing document “infused with [her] own policy perspective or the policy perspective of the day.”

In these responses, she demonstrated an understanding of the limited role of the judiciary. As Chief Justice John Marshall wrote in the 1803 decision *Marbury v. Madison*, the Court must “say what the law is.” For any judge to do more would undermine the separation of powers enshrined in the Constitution.

I also valued the testimony of Judge Thomas Griffith, who was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit by President George W. Bush. He explained that, on several occasions, he reviewed Judge Jackson’s decisions on appeal. Although they did not always agree on the outcome, he “respected her diligent and careful approach, her deep understanding, and collegial manner.” He added that, in his view, Judge Jackson “is an independent jurist who adjudicates based on the facts and law and not as a partisan.”

To be sure, I do not agree with some of the decisions that Judge Jackson has rendered as a Federal judge. For instance, in *Make the Road New York v. McAleenan*, I believe that Judge Jackson was wrong to review a decision that Congress—through Federal law—left to the “sole and unreviewable discretion” of the Secretary of Homeland Security. The Court of Appeals rightly reversed her ruling in that case. When I asked Judge Jackson about her decision, however, I respected the fact that she was able to articulate the thoughtful—albeit ultimately mistaken—analysis that she employed.

Similarly, I disagree with the sentences that she has imposed in some of the criminal cases that have come before her. As a general matter, I believe that judges should have some discretion in sentencing. This allows them to take into account the unique circumstances of each case—whether ag-

gravating or mitigating—to determine an appropriate punishment for the crimes committed.

Other Federal judges—appointed by Presidents of both parties—have deviated from the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines in some of the same types of cases handled by Judge Jackson. For instance, a 2021 report by the U.S. Sentencing Commission explained that “[l]ess than one-third (30.0%) of non-production child pornography offenders received a sentence within the guideline range in fiscal year 2019.”

The recent surge in crime, exacerbated by the vilification of law enforcement, is causing tremendous harm in cities across America. Thus, in evaluating Judge Jackson’s approach to criminal cases, I appreciate the input from the Fraternal Order of Police, which concluded that she “has considered the facts and applied the law consistently and fairly on a range of issues.” That organization explained that it is “reassured that, should she be confirmed, she would approach her future cases with an open mind and treat issues related to law enforcement fairly and justly.”

Just as I have disagreed with some of her decisions to date, I have no doubt that, if Judge Jackson is confirmed, I will not agree with every vote that she casts as a Justice. That alone, however, is not disqualifying. Indeed, that statement applies to all six Justices, nominated by both Republican and Democratic Presidents, whom I have voted to confirm.

I have concluded that Judge Jackson possesses the experience, judicial philosophy, and character to serve our country honorably as an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to speak on the profoundly disturbing trend of politicizing the courts and the judicial nomination process. This trend dates back decades and, sadly, continues to damage the reputation of this body and the independence of our courts. Today, calls to “pack” the Supreme Court in an apparent effort to dictate the outcome of cases are dangerous and undermine the public’s confidence in our judiciary.

Part of the reason for this politicization is that, in recent years, the process has increasingly moved away from what I believe to be appropriate for evaluating a Supreme Court nominee. In my view, the role the Constitution assigns to the Senate is to examine the experience, qualifications, philosophy, and integrity of the nominee. It is not to assess whether a nominee reflects the ideology of an individual Senator or would rule exactly as an individual Senator would want.

It used to be common for Senators to give the President, regardless of political party, considerable deference in the choice of a nominee as long as the President’s choice possessed the requisite credentials, experience, integrity, and respect for the Constitution. One need look no further than the 98-0

vote that conservative Justice Scalia received in 1986 and the 96-3 vote that liberal Justice Ginsburg received in 1993.

This approach served the Senate, the Court, and the country well. It instilled confidence in the independence and the integrity of the judiciary and helped keep the Court above the political fray. And this is the approach that I plan to continue to use for Supreme Court nominations because it runs counter to the disturbing trend of politicizing the judicial nomination process.

I urge my colleagues to denounce partisan attacks on our courts and to join me in working to reverse this harmful trend.

Similarly, I urge the Court itself to strive to forge consensus. A defining characteristic of a democracy, one that differentiates it from an autocracy, is that we are all, from the humblest to the most powerful, governed by the rule of law. That protection is inevitably weakened when those charged with upholding the primacy of the rule of law cannot agree on what the law provides. The perception held by some, whether fair or not, that Supreme Court Justices are guided by their personal views undermines respect for the law, posing a threat to the principle that holds us together as Americans.

This danger will only grow if the Court continues to exhibit recurring and predictable differences on the most significant legal issues of our time. Thus, I think it is essential that the Justices endeavor to reach consensus, especially on matters with the greatest potential to cause conflict.

To state this point in simpler terms, at times when our country is deeply divided along political and ideological lines, the Supreme Court is uniquely positioned to ensure that we adhere to the ties that bind us. Its ability to perform that function is diminished, however, when its members appear no less divided than the rest of the country.

I will cast my vote to confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, it gives me tremendous honor and pride to offer remarks in recognition of this truly historic moment. I was first elected to the Senate in 2008 and came to Washington alongside our Nation’s first African-American President. I remember the aura of historical significance that permeated the whole country during those early days of the Obama administration. In particular, I remember the awe and joy surrounding the inauguration, with Americans lining our streets, packed on the National Mall and glued to television screens in New Hampshire and across our country. I have thought a lot about this recently because I see that same excitement, anticipation, and recognition of history unfolding before our eyes as we as a nation are on the cusp of elevating our first female African-American Justice to the highest Court in our land.

Our Constitution has served as a model for modern democracies around the world. Important pillars of our society like equality under the law, freedom of speech, press, and religion and the separation of powers are all innovations that have made America a beacon of democracy around the world. What makes our Constitution particularly exceptional is its ability to be adjusted and adapted to more faithfully reflect the interests and values of our diverse citizenry which it serves. Important amendments have expanded rights for women and communities of color, making our society more inclusive and pushing the needle toward justice. The Constitution guards our basic rights and freedoms, and the Justices of the Supreme Court serve as the guardians of that Constitution.

It is precisely because of the importance of this Court and each of its nine precious seats that the seating of a new Justice is such a momentous occasion. And in this instance, the significance of the moment has been met by a singular nominee whose achievements, experience and integrity are fully worthy of the history books. In addition, for the first time in history, a former public defender will soon serve on the highest Court in the land. Judge Jackson has already—truly—rendered outstanding service to her country.

Judge Jackson's lived experiences as a Black woman and a mother will bring essential insights to the Supreme Court which, for the first time in 232 years, will approach gender parity. While I fully believe Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg would have loved seeing Justice Jackson ascend to her beloved Court, we still have a long way to go before we get to Justice Ginsburg's vision of nine female Justices. But one step at a time, we are building a better, more inclusive country. More succinctly put: We are building democratic institutions that represent the public they serve. Justice Jackson will make history and bring the full bounty of her rich and diverse personal history to the Court, just as Louis Brandeis, Thurgood Marshall, Sandra Day O'Connor, and Sonia Sotomayor did before her.

I will end with one last reflection: Judge Jackson's historic nomination offers hope and optimism at a time when partisanship and division threaten to unravel our very democracy. During my conversation with her, I was struck by her genuine candor in discussing how she would approach working with other Justices from different ideological backgrounds. She seeks to appeal to shared experiences and values with Justices whose ideological backgrounds differ from her own. This recognition that we all have more that unites than divides us gives me faith not only in Judge Jackson's ability to forge consensus, but also that we as a nation have a brighter future ahead of us than behind us, and that we can, and must, work together to bridge our divides—ideological and otherwise.

If I can paraphrase a fellow Granite Stater, the great Senator Daniel Webster whose desk I occupy today: "Justice is what binds civilized nations together." And I believe that Judge Jackson will faithfully use her seat on the Supreme Court to deliver just that kind of justice. Judge Jackson is the very best of America, and I am honored and excited to cast my vote to confirm her to the Supreme Court of the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this Capitol Building has served as the backdrop for some of the most notable moments in America's history. In this building, wars have been declared, peace treaties have been signed, and the march toward progress has either moved forward or has been stopped in its tracks.

Today, the Members of this Senate have the opportunity to take a monumental step forward. We will vote to confirm a once-in-a-generation legal talent, a jurist with outstanding credentials and a lifetime of experience, and the first-ever African-American woman to serve as Justice of the Supreme Court—Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson.

Judge Jackson's confirmation will be a glass-shattering achievement for America.

Consider this moment in history. When the Supreme Court first met in this building in 1801, there were 1 million slaves in this Nation—a Nation of 5 million people. This very building was built with the labor of enslaved people.

And at the time the Court met, neither Black Americans nor White women had a constitutionally guaranteed right to vote. Women had no place in that first Supreme Court chamber, and Black women would only enter to clean it in the dark of the night.

We know what followed. America's battle to end slavery saw a bloody civil war and decades of efforts to break down racial barriers, and the efforts continue to this day.

Our struggle to enfranchise and empower women did not end with the 19th Amendment, 102 years ago. It continues to this day, as well, as we strive to give our daughters the same opportunities we give our sons.

This confirmation of the first Black woman to the Supreme Court honors the history that has come before it. It honors the struggles of the past and the men and women who waged them.

And this confirmation draws America one step closer—one step—to healing our Nation, one step closer to a more perfect Union.

Nearly a century after our founding, we guaranteed the rights of citizenship, finally, to every American, including, for the first time, those who were born into bondage, with the ratification of the 14th Amendment.

It took a long century later for us to expand the bounds of liberty again. We

ensured the Federal Government could vigorously protect the right to vote, the most fundamental of rights, with the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

One victory for progress begat the next.

Two years after the Voting Rights Act, we confirmed the first Black American to ever serve on the Supreme Court—Justice Thurgood Marshall. But I would like to remind you: That was 50 years ago.

Now, with the passage of that time, we are beginning to write another chapter in our Nation's quest for equal justice under the law, and that chapter begins with three letters: K-B-J.

With Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's confirmation to the highest Court in the land, we are not only making history; we are carrying on a great American tradition: elevating one of our Nation's best and brightest legal minds to an honored position of service.

There is no one more deserving of this high honor. As we have learned over the past month, she is the best of us. She has devoted her life to serving our country. She has done so at every level of the Federal judiciary, and at every turn, she has distinguished herself.

But I hear the critics say she is soft on crime. I wonder how they explain that she was endorsed by the largest law enforcement organization in America, the Fraternal Order of Police, as well as the International Association of Chiefs of Police, as well as an army of Federal prosecutors who have appeared in her courts.

She is dedicated to protecting judicial independence, to advancing freedom and liberty, and deciding every case, as she says, from a neutral posture. That is exactly what you will find in evaluating nearly 10 years of service on the bench.

I hear Senators come to the floor and say: Well, there is one opinion I disagree with.

For goodness' sake, she has issued almost 600 written opinions in 10 years on the bench in the district court. She has been reversed a small percentage of the time. Her work speaks for itself, and when you evaluate it, you will find out she is thoughtful and evenhanded.

As the American people saw during last month's hearing in the Judiciary Committee, Judge Jackson has the right judicial temperament. Calm, collected, she answered every question, even when the questions were hostile and confrontational. She answered them with dignity and grace and stood by for more than 24 hours of questioning.

She is a proven consensus builder. She has been confirmed by the Senate on a bipartisan basis more than three times—three times, I should say—and soon, we hope, she will be confirmed again by a bipartisan majority.

She has earned the support from leaders across the political and ideological spectrum. Civil rights leaders,

leaders in law enforcement, former Federal judges appointed by Democrats and Republicans—all of them have lined up proudly to endorse her.

Perhaps most importantly, Judge Jackson will help ensure that the law works for the people and that the people understand the workings of the courts.

For many Americans, what happens in a courtroom can be cold and impersonal. Judge Jackson has made a habit of making it real. She looks people in the eye, walks them through her decision making with patience and empathy, and she reaches every one of her decisions by following the facts and the law, wherever they lead.

She said that her opinions can run long. That is by design, because she wants America to rest assured—whether she writes in the majority, the concurrence, or dissent—they will know exactly where she stands on the most important issues.

Serving as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee during Judge Jackson's confirmation has been one of the highest honors of my Senate experience.

I want to give a special thanks to the man who spoke before me, Republican Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY of Iowa. His friendship and fairness have really guided our relationship throughout this historic process.

In the weeks since President Biden announced her nomination, Judge Jackson has already lifted the spirit of countless Americans, inspiring a new generation of aspiring jurists and public servants. Millions of Americans see themselves in Judge Jackson—Black Americans, members of law enforcement families, working moms, public high school graduates like her fellow Palmetto Panthers in Florida.

Everywhere I have gone for the last few weeks when I go home—visiting law schools, going to the grocery store—I have been approached by people who have been following this nomination closely. They tell me how deeply impressed they are with Judge Jackson, even under fire from her critics.

Hannah Amundsen is one of those people. She is a law student in Waukegan, IL, a city on the shores of Lake Michigan. In a letter to my office, Hannah wrote:

If you can see it, you can be it. [And] I'm very excited to see . . . [America's] first black female justice.

Reverend Krista Alston is a Baptist minister in the city of Chicago. She comes from a long line of Baptist ministers. She calls herself "a civil rights baby," born in 1964, the year LBJ signed the Civil Rights Act.

Rikki Jones is also from Chicago. She has been working for civil rights for nearly 60 years—since she was a teenager.

Well, late last month, Reverend Alston and Ms. Jones, with four other people, drove 11 hours from Chicago to attend an hour of Judge Jackson's hearing.

Rev. Alston said she was moved by the judge's courage, grace, integrity,

and wisdom. She imagined what it will be like years from now to tell her future grandchildren what it was like to be in that room for that historic moment.

And Rikki Jones said she had never even expected to hear about a Black woman being nominated to the Supreme Court, let alone to be in the room for her hearing. She said that as she watched Judge Jackson, "it felt like the fulfillment of everything I've worked for my whole life."

She thought of all the strong Black women who came before her and helped make the movement possible: Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, and my personal late friend, the Reverend Willie Barrow, a Black woman minister from Chicago who worked alongside Dr. Martin Luther King. This moment was about them too, she said.

And this moment is possible because of Judge Jackson and who she is—her qualifications, her integrity, her record of excellence. She has earned her seat on the Supreme Court.

That is why it is so unfortunate that several Republicans on the Judiciary Committee did not approach Judge Jackson's hearing with that same level of fairness and respect as their colleagues.

Thankfully—thankfully—there are Members of the Senate who are willing to rise above the partisan fray.

I want to particularly commend Senator SUSAN COLLINS of Maine, Senator LISA MURKOWSKI of Alaska, and Senator MITT ROMNEY of Utah for their political courage and their willingness to support a singularly qualified and historic nominee to the Supreme Court.

You know, when Senator ROMNEY announced his support for Judge Jackson's confirmation, I couldn't help but remember his father, the late George Romney, who served as Governor of Michigan in the 1960s, during the height of the civil rights movement. Governor George Romney knew a thing or two about political courage. As a proud Republican Governor, in 1963, he marched alongside the NAACP Detroit President Edward Turner in support of civil rights. That same year when Dr. Martin Luther King organized a march in Detroit, Governor George Romney declared the occasion "Freedom Day" in Michigan.

To my colleague, Senator MITT ROMNEY, you are your father's son.

This week marks 54 years since the shot rang out in Memphis, TN, claiming the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, an American who spoke with greater moral clarity than nearly any other in our history. The night before he died, Dr. King spoke at a rally in support of the city's striking sanitation workers. There was tension in the air. From the moment he set foot in Memphis, he had received a barrage of death threats.

As Dr. King spoke to the crowd at the Mason Temple, death was on his mind. He said:

Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not

concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain.

His next words proved prophetic. Dr. King said:

I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land.

Rikki Jones said that she thought about Dr. King's prophecy when she realized the Judiciary Committee was voting on Judge Jackson's nomination on the anniversary of Dr. King's death. It felt like the prophecy had come to pass.

Dr. King didn't make it to the Promised Land, but Judge Jackson's ascension to the Supreme Court brings us closer to that longed-for place.

I would like to close with one last personal plea to my Senate colleagues. I hope you will think about this. In the years to come, long after we have left the Senate, one of our grandchildren may ask where we were on this historic day, April 7, 2022, when America broke down what seemed like an impossible racial barrier and voted to send the first African-American woman to serve on our highest Court. I will be proud to say I was on the Senate floor, standing at my desk, and casting my vote with pride for the next Associate Justice to the Supreme Court of the United States, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. I hope my colleagues will join me in sharing this historic moment.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, President Biden was elected on the promise that he would govern as a moderate and unite the country. He insisted the radical left would not be calling the shots on his watch. But when it came to one of the most consequential decisions a President can make—a lifetime appointment to our highest Court—the Biden administration let the radicals run the show.

With Washington Democrats in power, the far left got the reckless inflationary spending they wanted; the far left has gotten the insecure border they wanted; and today, the far left will get the Supreme Court Justice they wanted.

The fringe activists who demand partisan Court packing, attack the Justices, and describe our Constitution as "trash" made up their minds from the start of this administration that if a Supreme Court vacancy should arise, they wanted one nominee and one nominee only: Judge Jackson. They spent dark money to promote this person specifically. They pushed her for the D.C. Circuit. Then they badgered

Justice Breyer to quit. In February, one of these groups announced Judge Jackson would be the nominee before President Biden actually did make the announcement. So think about that for a moment.

The Senate has examined Judge Jackson's qualifications with the seriousness and vigor that a lifetime appointment deserves. Unlike when the parties' positions are reversed, the country was not subjected to uncorroborated smear campaigns, committee boycotts, stunts with cardboard cutouts, or mobs chasing Senators around the Capitol.

Now a few of our Democratic colleagues seem to have decided in advance they would claim that Judge Jackson was treated shabbily. I have heard that script recited, even though it didn't happen. It didn't happen.

Let's be clear. No nominee before the Senate for any position deserves a cakewalk or a coronation. Tough questions about a Federal judge's own rulings and statements are the definition of "fair game." My Republican colleagues' vigorous inquiry shed important new light on a frequently disturbing judicial record. So I applaud my colleagues for focusing on substance and not following the Democrats' recent precedents into the gutter.

Unfortunately, what the Senate's process turned up was disturbing.

First, the nominee would not follow the Ginsburg-Breyer precedent and denounce the insane concept of partisan Court packing.

Second, her judicial record is full of cases where Judge Jackson ruled like a policymaker implementing personal biases instead of a judge following the text wherever it led.

Third, her aggressive judicial activism frequently focused on treating convicted criminals as gently as possible. In literally case after case, from deadly fentanyl to open borders, to child exploitation, Judge Jackson tilted the scales of justice away from public safety and innocent victims in favor of her career-long passion for softening up criminal sentencing. In Judge Jackson's courtroom, plain legal text and clear congressional intent were no match for what the judge admits are her personal "policy disagreements."

Even as a violent crimewave sweeps America, Democrats are pursuing a nationwide campaign to make the justice system softer on crime. They are stacking the deck with far-left prosecutors, woke warriors at the Department of Justice, and Federal judges who believe criminals deserve lighter treatment. This project is terrible for innocent American families. And every piece of evidence suggests Democrats' view Judge Jackson as its crown jewel.

I will close with this: These debates about judicial philosophy are not just academic. The charged political atmosphere around confirmations, the outsized role that unelected judges play in our national life—these are direct con-

sequences of liberal judicial activism. They are direct results of the effort to misuse Federal courts as a progressive legislature that voters can't kick out.

A republic of self-serving citizens should not spend every June watching with bated breath to see if five or six lawyers will hand down sweeping policy changes with zero basis in the written Constitution.

The solution is not to make the Court even more of a superlegislature, like liberals want—a delegitimizing death spiral that would destroy the rule of law. There is only one solution. The Senate should only confirm Justices who will follow the text of our laws and our Constitution wherever it leads, who will leave subjective policy judgments on this side of the street, where they belong. That is how we lower the temperature. That is how we shore up the courts. That is how we protect the rule of law. Staff the judiciary with brilliant men and women who understand and embrace this limited role. No other road leads anywhere good for our great Nation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this is a wonderful day, a joyous day, an inspiring day for the Senate, for the Supreme Court, and for the United States of America.

Today, we are here to vote to confirm Ketanji Brown Jackson as the 116th Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Now, a few days ago, I spoke with a group of eighth graders from Cheektowaga, NY. Many of them were students of color. It was amazing. When I mentioned that this week we were confirming the judge, you could see them light up, the unmistakable look in their eyes. "One day," each young lady thought to herself, "I can do it too."

You know, it has been a dark 2 years with COVID—people getting sick and dying, many of whom we knew, stores closing, and schools shutting their doors. But even in the darkest times, there are bright lights. Today is one of the brightest lights, and let us hope it is a metaphor, an indication of many more bright lights to come.

As I have said over and over again, there are three words that I think best fit Judge Jackson: brilliant, beloved, belongs.

Judge Jackson is, in every sense and by all measures, a brilliant jurist. She is, indeed, a brilliant person. By the judge's own telling, she first discovered her calling to the law not in a classroom or by reading a book or by talking to lawyers but by sitting at the kitchen table, next to her dad, filling out her coloring book while her dad pored through case law.

Years from now, other parents and other daughters will do the same, and it will be Justice Jackson's opinions that will lay open on the table. The judge's parents and her entire family should beam with pride that this day

has come. At every step of her upbringing and career, Ketanji Brown Jackson ranked among the highest of achievers.

And, look, we should take a moment to note that Judge Jackson will be the first and only Justice with experience as a public defender. We are proud of that, and America is proud of that. It will enhance the Court's ability to preserve a basic truth in our country—that all deserve equal justice under the law, from the privileged to the impoverished. In an imperfect world, the judge conquered so many hurdles and today stands as one of the most experienced individuals ever nominated to the Supreme Court.

For this reason, the judge is also beloved by individuals and organizations across the political spectrum. I went through her record carefully, and never did I find one instance of a peer or a colleague or an associate saying one negative word about her. It was incredible. When we go through these records, you often find someone here or there who will bad-mouth the individual who knew them but not with Judge Jackson.

And, lest we forget, the judge is popular in the minds of the American people. A Gallup poll released after her hearings showed nearly 60 percent of the public supports her confirmation—10 points above the historical norm. There is no question here the country, by and large, wants the Senate to confirm Judge Jackson. Police chiefs want to confirm Judge Jackson. Conservative and moderate and liberal judges all want us to confirm Judge Jackson.

And I thank my colleagues in this Chamber who worked in good faith to make sure the Senate can finish its work today.

Finally, as I have said many times, the judge belongs on the Supreme Court. By that, I mean something very specific. In our Nation's history, 115 individuals have been confirmed by this body to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States. Of those, 108 have been White men; only 5 have been women; only 2 have been African American. But Ketanji Brown Jackson will be the first African-American woman ever to hold the title of "Justice."

Think about the impact that will have on our democracy. Untold millions of kids will open textbooks and see pictures of Justice Jackson among the highest ranks of our public figures. How many millions of kids in generations past could have benefited from such a role model? How many would-be Justices, lawyers, doctors, generals, businesspeople have been lost to history precisely because their history books had few, if any, role models that they could relate to?

We certainly have a long way to go on the road to true justice, but by confirming Judge Jackson today, we are taking a bold step forward toward reaching the full realization of our country's promise. We will make it far more likely that girls across America will feel precisely what Judge Jackson

felt herself when she was a kid: Nobody can stop me. I can do this too. I am brilliant too. I belong too.

For all of these reasons, increasing the diversity of the Court has been one of my highest priorities and one of the highest priorities of our Senate Democratic majority of whom I am so proud.

Justice Jackson is the most important example, but we have been working on this for over a year. Of the 58 Senate-confirmed Federal judges since we took the majority, three-quarters have been women, and two-thirds have been people of color. It is not just racial and gender diversity that matters. We have strived to lift up judges who bring diversity through their experience: more public defenders in our courts, more civil rights lawyers, more election lawyers.

When Americans of all walks of life come before the court, they should have confidence that those who don the robes have the ability to walk in their own shoes, to see and understand their side of the story, and then apply the law properly according to the facts.

One judge at a time—one judge at a time—this majority is expanding the possibility of who merits consideration to the Bench; and I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge my Republican colleagues who joined us on this occasion and over the year to achieve this goal.

In closing, I want to thank Chairman DURBIN for beautifully executing this nomination process. It was equal parts fair, thorough, and expeditious—no easy feat in this modern Senate.

I want to thank all of my Democratic colleagues on the Judiciary Committee. You were just fabulous—every one of you—in your respectful and insightful examination of the judge's record.

And I want to thank my Republican colleagues who chose to take this process seriously no matter which side you voted on.

The President sent us an impressive nominee. She merited robust and thoughtful and lively examination. I thank the Members who did precisely that.

In short, this is one of the great moments of American history. At the time of our Constitution's ratification, in most States, you had to be a White male, Protestant landowner to be considered part of American society. So, from the get-go, generations of Americans have sought to establish the United States as a full democracy. We fought a bloody civil war to end slavery. Women organized and reached for the ballot. The civil rights movement brought an end to the vicious segregation of the mid-20th century. And, today, we are taking a giant, bold, and important step on the well-trodden path to fulfilling our country's founding promise.

This is a great moment for Judge Jackson, but it is an even greater moment for America as we rise to a more perfect Union.

I thank my colleagues for their work. I yield the floor.

VOTE ON BROWN JACKSON NOMINATION

The VICE PRESIDENT. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Brown Jackson nomination?

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 134 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Romney
Blumenthal	Kaine	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Lujan	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Collins	Markey	Stabenow
Coons	Menendez	Tester
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Rounds
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hoeben	Sasse
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Lummis	Toomey
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Paul	

The nomination was confirmed.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, very happily, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VAN HOLLEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I am here today to speak in support of the nomination and confirmation of Christopher Lowman to be the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment. We are in a fight for the free world and

that requires maintaining a robust military presence of our allies, including and especially NATO countries.

Any U.S. mission also needs a strong logistics chain. That means being able to move troops, medical supplies, fuel, tents, anything else throughout the world at any given time. And this is no longer an abstraction. We have seen what happens when it isn't in place. We are seeing it in real time with Russia's equipment and training problems in Ukraine.

And that is why we have an Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment to lead on logistics. As we are watching the Ukrainians bravely push back this unprovoked Russian war, part of the reason that they are having success is that the Russian logistics chain is absolutely broken. We, in the United States, and our Armed Forces take logistics extraordinarily seriously. But we don't have the person in charge of that confirmed to lead the Department on logistics.

This position is left unfilled because JOSH HAWLEY is blocking Mr. Lowman's nomination. Senator HAWLEY apparently disagrees with the Biden administration policy on Afghanistan, and so he is punishing our servicemembers and our NATO allies while a war in Europe is raging. It is worth repeating. Senator HAWLEY is mad about what happened 6 months ago in a different part of the world, and in response, he is harming the Department of Defense and our national security.

Mr. HAWLEY. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. SCHATZ. I will not yield.

Mr. Lowman is well-qualified for this job, and no one is disputing that. He is a Marine Corps veteran who spent nearly four decades working for the Army. He has the exact expertise necessary to help support our logistics chain and help to make sure that our military remains the best fighting force on the planet. It is time for Senator HAWLEY to release this hold and move the nomination forward.

This is preposterous. You can do a hold. Members do a hold. The Presiding Officer has done a hold. I have done a hold. I voted no on nominees. I retaliated against Democratic and Republican administrations when I disagreed with policy. But a blanket hold on the Department of Defense and holding the person in charge of our logistics chain is absolutely inexcusable.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination, Calendar No. 777, Christopher Joseph Lowman, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, and that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

Mr. HAWLEY. Reserving the right to object, now that I have the floor, will the Senator from Hawaii answer a question?

Do you agree with this administration's policy to denying MiGs to the Ukrainians?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator may not interrogate the other Senator.

Mr. HAWLEY. Well, the Senator doesn't want to answer any questions. I see. He denied my request to ask a question a moment ago.

Mr. SCHATZ. Is there an objection? Does he object or not?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Regular order has been called.

Is there objection?

Mr. HAWLEY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, thank you for finally giving me an option to speak. It is interesting, the Senator will come to the floor but doesn't want to engage in a colloquy or answer questions.

Let's talk a little bit about the policy—disastrous policy—that he is supporting. This is the White House's latest talking points that their failure in Ukraine is now due to some logistics problem and the Department of Defense—they, of course, can't be responsible for what they are doing, just like they are not responsible for anything. They are not responsible for what happened in Afghanistan—their policy. They are not responsible for what has happened in Ukraine—their policy.

Let's talk about their policy in Ukraine.

Mr. SCHATZ. Will the Senator yield to a question?

Mr. HAWLEY. So what has President Zelenskyy been asking for for weeks, indeed, months on end? He said: "Send us planes."

What has this administration done? No. Actually, first they said yes, then they said maybe, then they said no.

Today, the Secretary of Defense testified before the Armed Services Committee, under oath, that even though this Congress has appropriated \$3 billion in military lethal aid to the people of Ukraine, the Defense Department has so far given them less than one-third of it. Why, because of logistics? No. He was asked that. No, because of policy. His comment was: We are giving them what we think they need.

I would just point out that that is not what the Ukrainians think. If you listen to President Zelenskyy, if you listen to the Ukrainian parliamentarians who have been here, if you talked to them, what they will say is they need more military aid; they need more help.

This administration won't give it to them, not because of logistics but because of policy. We don't have a logistics problem; we have a Joe Biden prob-

lem, and we have had that problem in Ukraine from day one.

This administration's policy was to deter a Russian invasion of Ukraine. It failed. Why did it fail? It is not hard to see. President Biden came to office, what did he do?

Mr. SCHATZ. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. HAWLEY. When Ukraine asked for military assistance, he denied it.

Can we have order?

Mr. SCHATZ. I am asking, will the Senator yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri has the floor.

Mr. HAWLEY. When Joe Biden came to office, the people of Ukraine asked for military assistance a year ago—a year ago. Did he give it to them? No. He denied them military stance. He denied them lethal aid. What did he do, though, for Vladimir Putin? When he came to office, he green-lighted Vladimir Putin's pipeline. He turned their pipelines on. He turned our pipelines off. What did he do with American energy production? He throttled it down. He turned it off.

His first actions in office were to, among other things, cancel the Keystone Pipeline, halt the leasing program in ANWR, issue a halt to new oil and gas leases and drilling permits on Federal lands, impose tougher regulations on oil and gas and methane emissions, and a host of new regulations on other energy production.

And that had the desired effect. Russian energy production—up. Russian revenues—up. What has happened since then, since the invasion of Ukraine? It has been one gaffe after another. He won't send them planes.

Today, the Secretary of Defense also confirmed that this administration has, in fact, not been sharing intelligence with the Ukrainians. In fact, today the Secretary of Defense had to admit that the administration was going to be forced to change policy—his words—change policy in Ukraine because of the fact we had not been sharing all the intelligence we might have with Ukrainian soldiers and the Ukrainian military despite their request for that. Whose decision was that? Joe Biden's. It is his policy.

The President hasn't been entirely silent. He did have this to say:

For God's sake, this man cannot remain in power.

Now Joe Biden doesn't appear to know whether we are fighting or struggling to help the Ukrainians defend themselves or whether we are launching a war of regime change in Russia, itself.

You know, the bottom line is this: On one issue after another, when it comes to Ukraine, this President has been wrong. On every aspect of policy that has mattered, he has been wrong. Is it any wonder the Ukrainians are saying: Change policies, share your intelligence, send us the aid that we have requested.

I say again, we don't have a logistics problem. The White House shouldn't

point fingers and shift the blame. We have a Joe Biden problem. That is the nub of the issue here.

There was Joe Biden's comment sounding like we are going to send ground troops:

You're going to see when you go there—

He said to servicemembers.

And you . . . some of you have been there. You're going to see—you're going to see women, young people standing . . . in front of a damn tank, just saying, "I'm not leaving. I'm holding my ground."

The President—it is one gaffe after another. It is one switch in policy after another. It is disaster from beginning to end. And let's not forget where these foreign policy disasters really kicked off in a big way. Yeah, I was in Afghanistan. Am I concerned about Afghanistan? You are darn right I am. Thirteen servicemembers were killed at Abbey Gate, including one from my home State. I will never forget talking to his father as soon as we learned of the attack—before, in fact, the official notice of his son's death had been released. His father asked me to do everything in my power to hold this administration accountable, and that is exactly what I am going to do.

Has anyone been held accountable yet for Afghanistan? Has somebody been fired? Has somebody been relieved of command? No. Has somebody been shown the door? No. Has there been a change in policy at the Department of Defense? No.

We just stumble from one crisis to another. Why? Because we have a Joe Biden problem. This administration is doing exactly what their Commander in Chief wants them to do and it is wrong, again and again and again and again.

Until we see some change in policy from this administration, until this Senate gets serious about its oversight responsibilities at the Department of Defense, I am going to ask that for senior defense leaders, we at least observe regular order. I can't block a nomination. I can't halt it, but I can ask that regular order be followed. That is exactly what I am going to ask with regard to this nomination and other senior leaders until there is accountability, until we have a change in policy, and until this administration admits that on issue after issue, in virtually every aspect of its foreign policy, it is just dead wrong.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. What Senator HAWLEY wants is an excuse to go through his litany of criticisms of the Biden administration. And the truth is that every Senator has that right without blocking the logistics guy from the Department of Defense.

He could have brought his floor charts out here and given a withering speech about all of the things that he thought went wrong. But he is doing a very specific thing: He is damaging the Department of Defense. We have senior

DOD leaders, we have the Armed Services Committee coming to us and saying: I don't know what to tell him. I don't know how to satisfy him, but he is blocking the staffing of the senior leadership at the Department of Defense.

This comes from a guy who raised his fist in solidarity with the insurrectionists. This comes from a guy who, before the Russian invasion, suggested that maybe it would be wise for Zelenskyy to make a few concessions about Ukraine and their willingness to join NATO. This comes from a guy who, just about a month ago, voted against Ukraine aid. He is saying it is going too slow. He voted no. He voted no on Ukraine aid, and now, he has the gall to say it is going too slow.

And this final insult is that until—what—Secretary Austin resigns? That is not a serious request. People used to come to me during the Trump administration all the time: Do you think Trump should resign? Do you think Tillerson should resign? That is stupid. Of course, I think all the people I disagree with should quit their jobs and be replaced with people I love; of course, I think they should all resign. That is not how this world works. That is not a reasonable request from a U.S. Senator: Until the Secretary of Defense quits his job, I am going to block all his nominees. That is preposterous—and coming from a person who exonerated Donald Trump for extorting Zelenskyy for withholding lethal aid.

They withheld lethal aid until—unless—Zelenskyy would release false smears against Joe Biden's son, and then he voted to exonerate President Trump for this. So spare me the new solidarity with the Ukrainians and with the free world, because this man's record is exactly the opposite.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

UKRAINE

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I just want to make some comments regarding what the junior Senator from Missouri was just talking about on the floor, and I know that my colleague from Hawaii was providing commentary as well.

It is hard to comprehend how any Member of Congress, House or Senate, could come to the floor and make the criticism of the Biden administration regarding its Ukraine policy, especially with regard to the military assistance provided by this administration, and that same Senator, along with a long list of Republican Senators, voted against all the money for Ukraine just a couple weeks ago, \$13.6 billion.

But, unfortunately, it is entirely consistent with what those same 31 Senators have been doing for the last couple of weeks. They voted against all the money in March, and then they criticize President Biden. In fact, the day of President Zelenskyy's speech to the Congress—that inspiring speech—that so many of us were moved by, peo-

ple in both parties, both Houses, all across the country, in fact, across the world were moved by what he said and, frankly, challenged by what he said.

We have to do more, even in my judgment, than the \$13.6 billion. But as the junior Senator from Missouri should know—I hope he knows this—since the beginning of this administration, just on the military assistance, we have provided \$2.6 billion. So more than \$2.5 billion dollars just in military assistance, but the bulk of that is in that spending bill that we passed a couple of weeks ago that has the \$13.6 billion.

Here is what the Washington Post says, and I will read the headline and the date, and then ask consent to enter it into the RECORD. Here is the headline:

More than two dozen Senate Republicans demand Biden do more for Ukraine after voting against \$13.6 billion for Ukraine.

Mr. President, dated March 17, 2022, a story by Mariana Alfaro and Eugene Scott, I ask unanimous consent that this article be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[March 17, 2022]

MORE THAN TWO DOZEN SENATE REPUBLICANS DEMAND BIDEN DO MORE FOR UKRAINE AFTER VOTING AGAINST \$13.6 BILLION FOR UKRAINE

(By Mariana Alfaro and Eugene Scott)

THIRTY-ONE SENATE REPUBLICANS VOTED LAST WEEK AGAINST THE \$1.5 TRILLION SPENDING BILL TO FUND THE GOVERNMENT, INCREASE U.S. DEFENSE SPENDING AND PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE. IN RECENT DAYS, MANY OF THEM HAVE CLAMORED FOR MORE WEAPONS AND AID.

More than two dozen Senate Republicans are demanding that President Biden do more to aid war-torn Ukraine and arm its forces against Russia's brutal assault, after voting last week against \$13.6 billion in military and humanitarian assistance for Ukraine. Consider Sen. Rick Scott (R-Fla.), who heard Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's emotional plea in a virtual address to Congress on Wednesday for more weapons and a no-fly zone over Ukraine.

"President Biden needs to make a decision TODAY: either give Ukraine access to the planes and anti-aircraft defense systems it needs to defend itself, or enforce a no-fly zone to close Ukrainian skies to Russian attacks," Scott said in a statement. "If President Biden does not do this NOW, President Biden will show himself to be absolutely heartless and ignorant of the deaths of innocent Ukrainian children and families."

Last week, Scott was one of 31 Republicans to vote against a sweeping, \$1.5 trillion spending bill to fund government agencies and departments through the remainder of the fiscal year, a bill that also included \$13.6 billion in assistance for Ukraine. Biden signed the bill into law Tuesday, saying the United States was "moving urgently to further augment the support to the brave people of Ukraine as they defend their country."

After casting a "no" vote, Scott assailed the overall spending bill as wasteful, arguing that it was filled with lawmakers' pet projects. "It makes my blood boil," Scott said last week.

Democrats quickly condemned what they saw as glaring hypocrisy among the Republicans who voted against the aid but were quick to criticize Biden as a commander in chief leading from behind in addressing Ukraine's needs. "We should send more lethal aid to Ukraine which I voted against last week" is making my brain melt," tweeted Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii).

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has highlighted divisions in the Republican Party on U.S. involvement overseas and the standing of the NATO alliance. For decades, during the presidencies of Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, the GOP embraced a hawkish view, with robust military spending and certainty about coming to the aid of allies.

President Donald Trump's "America First" outlook and efforts to undermine NATO, including questioning why the military alliance even existed, secured a foothold in the GOP, reflected in the response of Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) to Ukraine. In a video Wednesday, Greene blamed both Russia and Ukraine, and warned against U.S. intervention. Biden has said repeatedly that he would not send U.S. troops to fight.

Potential 2024 presidential candidates such as Scott have been highly critical of Biden, who also announced Wednesday that the Pentagon was sending nearly \$1 billion in military equipment to Ukraine, including 800 Stinger anti-aircraft systems, 100 drones, 25,000 helmets and more than 20 million rounds of small-arms ammunition and grenade launcher and mortar rounds.

In early February, Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.), another possible White House candidate, sent a letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken suggesting that the United States would be worse off if Ukraine were admitted to NATO, the military alliance of 30 mainly Western countries—including the United States—bound by a mutual defense treaty, and argued that the United States should instead focus on countering China.

Hawley, who voted against the spending bill with billions for Ukraine, said Wednesday that Biden needs to "step up" and send MiG jet fighters and other weapons to Ukraine, accusing the administration of "dragging its feet."

The Pentagon has rebuffed Poland's offer to send MiG fighter jets to Ukraine amid fears of further escalation involving a NATO country.

In a statement Thursday, Hawley said, "Aid for Ukraine should not be held hostage to the Democrats' pet projects and I did not support the massive \$1.5 trillion omnibus spending bill stuffed with billions in earmarks."

Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.), a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee who also voted against the spending bill, told MSNBC on Thursday that the United States "can do more" for Ukraine.

"There were all sorts of particular ways where the administration yesterday said a lot of the right things, but just because the pen was in President Biden's hand yesterday doesn't mean that weapons are in Zelenskyy's hands today. And at every point we're too slow, and it feels like a huge part of the administration's audience is internal lawyers, and they do these offensive and defensive legal-hairsplitting arguments," Sasse said.

On the Senate floor Thursday, Sasse argued that the spending bill wasn't "really about Ukrainian aid," but a "whole bunch of schlock."

"Ukrainian aid was a little bit of sugar on the larger medicine of a \$1.5 trillion bill that nobody would actually want to go home and to defend to the voters, and to the taxpayers of America, as well thought out," he said.

Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) countered that the only way to deliver aid to Ukraine

and massive legislation is through compromise.

"Inside every piece of legislation are elements that many of us disagree with," Murphy said. "Inside that budget that you voted against are all sorts of things that I disagree with. But in the end, in order to govern the country, you have to be able to find a path to compromise."

Schatz, in an interview with The Washington Post after the exchange between Sasse and Murphy, said the vote in favor of the aid was an "easy" one.

"It's very simple: If you don't vote for the thing, you're not for the thing," Schatz said. "That is literally our job, to decide whether we are for or against things as a binary question."

"So you don't get to say: 'Even though I voted against Ukraine aid, that I'm actually for it, and here's my explanation,'" Schatz added, arguing that Republicans were trying to have it both ways by maintaining their fidelity to Trump—who has praised Russian President Vladimir Putin—and become "Zelensky fans" at the same time.

"They voted to exonerate Trump for this specific reason, which was to withhold aid from Zelensky, and here they are again, opposing aid to Zelensky," Schatz said. "So now they're doing it twice. They're still acting as if they're defenders of Western-style democracy."

The day before voting against the bill, Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), another possible presidential candidate, posted on Twitter about the need to come to Ukraine's aid. "Helping Ukraine defend itself against a ruthless dictator is in our best interest," he tweeted.

Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) tweeted a clip declaring the importance of assisting Ukraine. "It's not much of a deterrent when the assistance you provide comes after the invasion," he wrote. "We need to have President Zelensky's back and expedite aid to Ukraine."

Hours later, Cramer voted against the spending bill. Sen. John Neely Kennedy (R-La.) tweeted a clip the day he voted against the bill of him speaking to the need to give Ukraine more aircraft.

"The Ukrainian people and President Zelensky are fighting well above their weight, but they need planes," he said on Fox News. "He made that very clear to us on the phone Saturday."

"Give the man his planes," Kennedy added. Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah), the GOP's 2012 presidential nominee, was widely mocked when he called Russia the "number one geopolitical foe" during a debate with President Barack Obama, a remark that in hindsight seems prescient.

Romney, like other Republicans, has pressed Biden to send more aid to Ukraine. He also voted against the spending bill with billions for the country. Romney said that while he "strongly" supports providing aid to Ukrainians, he "ultimately could not support the rest of this bloated spending bill for the aforementioned reasons."

"Forcing us to swallow the bad to get the good is concerning, unsustainable, and no way to govern over the long term," he said.

In a statement to The Post Thursday, Romney added that he has "and will strongly support aid for Ukraine" and that he "called for a stand-alone bill to get a vote on Monday, four days sooner than the omnibus did."

Romney and Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) are separately leading an effort with 40 of their Senate GOP colleagues to urge Biden to work with Poland and other NATO allies to expedite the transfer of aircraft and air-defense systems to Ukraine. Of those 40 Republicans, 25 voted against the aid package.

While increasing domestic spending and keeping the government open, the sweeping

spending bill also increased spending for the U.S. military by 5.6 percent, totaling \$762 billion. The bill includes a 2.7 percent pay increase for all active-duty troops. Several Republicans were critical of Ukraine in 2017, when Trump began spreading a conspiracy theory that it was Ukraine—and not Russia—that interfered with the 2016 election. Two years later, Democrats accused Trump of leveraging military assistance and an Oval Office meeting with Zelensky in exchange for investigations of Biden and his son Hunter Biden, and the debunked theory alleging Ukrainian interference in the election.

The House impeached Trump; the Senate acquitted him on charges that he abused the powers of his office and obstructed Congress. All the Senate Republicans except Romney voted for acquittal.

Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) told The Post on Thursday that Republican lawmakers arguing for more aid for Ukraine days after voting against a bill to provide assistance is "the height of hypocrisy."

"Some of them will find every way they can to criticize Joe Biden," Hirono said. "And I think it's more than ironic that the president that they continue to support withheld aid to Ukraine for political purposes."

As several of these Republicans who voted against the bill criticized Biden, one Republican pointed to the disconnect.

Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.), who voted for the bill, advised his party to stop sending "mixed messages" and lamented that the spending bill with nearly \$14 billion for Ukraine didn't pass the Senate 100-0, according to Politico.

And on Thursday, Zelensky's chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, tweeted that he was "grateful" to the United States, which he described as Ukraine's "reliable partner." "[Biden] does more for [Ukraine] than any of his predecessors," Yermak tweeted.

Mr. CASEY. Here is the subheadline:

Thirty-one Senate Republicans voted last week against the \$1.5 trillion spending bill to fund the government, increase U.S. defense spending and provide humanitarian and military assistance to Ukraine. In recent days, many of them have clamored for more weapons and aid.

And it goes on from there, and I am not going to read all of it, obviously, but it chronicles the hypocrisy that we just heard here today and that we have heard for days now and weeks now, criticizing the President when they voted against all the money—so all the money from the \$13.6 billion that will go to pay for the Javelin missiles that are taking out Russian tanks every day and have for weeks—every penny of that out of the \$13.6. You could probably cut it in half in terms of what the military assistance will be.

So let's say, for sake of argument, probably half of that, \$6 or \$7 billion, but whatever the exact number is, that money is going to help pay for a lot more Javelin missiles that have been so effective. The Stinger systems that they have used, the antiaircraft systems, they are all going to be paid for. The ammunition and the body armor and all of the other assistance that we are providing is going to be made possible because most of the Senate—50 Democrats and just 19 Republicans, but we are grateful for their support—voted for the money.

So if you have a criticism about the administration's policy, you are cer-

tainly entitled to criticize the administration, but I think you lose your right to criticize the administration on military assistance and what we are doing or not doing on military assistance when you just voted against all the money—all the money. And yet they do it over and over again, as if no one is watching.

Well, I think the American people get it, and I think they know the difference between someone who can justifiably criticize any administration on foreign policy or defense policy or anything else. But I think you should admit on the record that you didn't vote for the money. Don't throw sand in the eyes of the people. Admit on the record that you didn't vote for the money, and then lodge your criticism. But, of course, he didn't do that and so many who voted the wrong way.

Now, the Washington Post also notes in this article that, obviously, it was a spending bill that will allow us to fund the government. We could talk about that, whether you support funding the government. But here is a point that was made in the article that I think a lot of people may have missed: It is that this funding bill also paid for a pay increase for our troops.

U.S. servicemembers got a pay increase in this bill, and yet you would never know that by listening to some of the folks who voted the wrong way on the bill. You would think that that wasn't part of this legislation.

So I think a lot of Americans probably expect that when you are making an argument against an administration, you have the right to do that, but I think it would be a lot more truthful if you were clear about where you voted on the biggest Ukraine spending measure in recent history, likely not just the biggest ever for Ukraine but the biggest ever for a lot of countries that we help.

So I hope that people across this Chamber and across the country will make note of that contradiction, because when you voted against those dollars for Ukraine, you were voting against not only the people of Ukraine and their ability to fight this war and obviously the soldiers in the field, but you were voting against that humanitarian support, as well, that will provide food and medical care and so much else.

Now, I am in no way satisfied that we have done enough. We have got to do a lot more. We have got to provide, in my judgment, a river, an ever-rushing stream of weapons—as many weapons as it takes to defeat Vladimir Putin.

So we are going to have more debates, and Senators will have more opportunities to vote the right way when it comes to supporting the people of Ukraine. But I think it would be better for the debate if folks would mention how they voted, that they voted against the Ukraine money, that they voted against the pay raise for the troops, and they voted against a lot of other provisions.

But to come on to the Senate floor and to criticize the President on military assistance, that is the height of hypocrisy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. GRASSLEY. The majority leader is going to come to the floor, and I will yield the floor for him when he comes here, but I would like to yield the floor without losing the right to the floor.

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE STAFF

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to thank my staff who worked on this nomination.

First, I would like to recognize the contributions of Kolan Davis, my chief counsel and staff director. Kolan was assisted by Brendan Chestnut, my chief counsel for nominations.

The staff in the nominations unit also worked incredibly hard on this nomination. They include Lauren Mehler, Gabi Kenny, Vetan Kapoor, and Raija Munk.

The permanent nominations team received some reinforcements for this Supreme Court nomination. Annie Croslow joined my staff to lead the team of special counsels assisting on this nomination. That team includes Annika Boone, Kyle Cole, Isaac Fong, Jenna Lorence, Daniel Morales, and Luke Zaro. This team scoured Judge Jackson's record. They spent countless hours reviewing her opinions, her speeches, and pulling filings and transcripts for her cases. Their exhaustive review helped the Republicans on the committee prepare for her confirmation process.

I also want to thank the communications director, Taylor Foy, as well as the deputy communications director, George Hartmann, Aaron Britt, Annie Richardson, Jennifer Heins, and Megan Behrends also contributed to the communications effort.

Other staff also helped review and prepare for the nomination, including Dave Lewen, Lauren Stimpert, Rachel Wright, Erin Creegan, Tianna Torrejon, and Chesney Mallory, as well as law clerks Carly Hviding, Luke Bunting, and Noelle Daniel.

Finally, I want to thank the rest of my Judiciary Committee staff for their continued work during this process and also thank my deputy staff director, Rita Lari, for her advice and leadership.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 808.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of four years.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 808, Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of four years.

Charles E. Schumer, Mazie K. Hirono, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Jack Reed, Jacky Rosen, Ben Ray Lujan, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher Murphy, Patrick J. Leahy, John W. Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 844.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lisa DeNell Cook, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2010.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 844, Lisa DeNell Cook, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2010.

Charles E. Schumer, Mazie K. Hirono, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Jack Reed, Jacky Rosen, Ben Ray Lujan, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher Murphy, Patrick J. Leahy, John W. Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 848.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Alvaro M. Bedoya, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2019.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 848, Alvaro M. Bedoya, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2019.

Charles E. Schumer, Maria Cantwell, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Baldwin, Richard J. Durbin, Patty Murray, Margaret Wood Hassan, Gary C. Peters, Mazie K. Hirono, Tina Smith, Debbie Stabenow, Mark R. Warner, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Tammy Duckworth, Brian Schatz.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that

the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, April 7, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor to my colleague and friend from the great State of Iowa.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

UKRAINE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, lots of pundits are trying to get into President Putin's head and looking for some so-called off-ramp. Now, I am not a pundit, and I do not pretend to be able to read Putin's mind. However, I do listen carefully to those closest to Russia who have better insights than the American pundits, academics, and foreign policy theorists.

I happen to be cochair of the Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus, so I interact regularly with Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians—three countries that in 1940 the Soviet Union absorbed into it, and then since about 1990, they have been independent of Russia. So you can see these countries are historically Western in every sense except geography, but they have had a long and often painful exposure to the Russian-Soviet-KGB way of thinking.

Our Baltic friends can help others in the West who cannot seem to fathom what is going through Putin's mind. The fact that we cannot understand Putin's mindset is because he doesn't think like modern Western leaders.

Now, this is important insight from my Baltic contacts. Putin is stuck in the 17th and 18th centuries. Now, you know I like history, so this is something that I can understand. Putin thinks like a czar expanding his empire. He regrets the collapse of the Soviet Union—not because of communist ideology but because it reconstituted the Russian empire.

In foreign policy, it is easy to assume other countries are just like us. Experts don't know what to make of an 18th-century imperialist.

Some observers have speculated that Putin has gone crazy because he does not seem to be acting rationally, but from the standpoint of someone who thinks Ukraine is not a real country, as Putin has said for decades, and who regrets the collapse of the "evil empire," he is acting rationally.

Our Baltic allies have been warning the West that Putin is an aggressor since well before the current invasion of Ukraine, before the 2014 invasion of neutral Ukraine, before the disastrous Obama administration "reset" of relations with Russia, and before the 2008 invasion of Georgia.

The Baltics have often been dismissed as hysterical or Russophobic or at least exaggerating when they warn about Russia. Well, the world has awakened to the fact that the Baltics were right all along.

We should have armed Ukraine to the teeth years ago. Putin only understands strength.

What lessons should have been learned from Putin's pattern of aggression over the years? Putin only understands strength, and weakness is provocative.

During the Hungarian uprising of 1956, when the Hungarian people were protesting to break free of Soviet control, the Eisenhower administration in this country paid lip service to the aspirations for freedom but was secretly obsessed with not provoking the Soviets.

Eisenhower's Secretary of State, Dulles, made his speech in Dallas, TX, where he said this:

The [United States] has no ulterior purpose in desiring the independence of the satellite countries. . . . We do not look upon these nations as potential military allies. So you can see the expansion of NATO today proves how wrong Dulles was at that time.

However, after the Dulles speech, he then cabled the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, instructing that this be brought to the attention of the highest Soviet authorities. Any wonder why Hungary wasn't freed at that time?

The Estonian historian and also its former Prime Minister, Mart Laar, maintains that this message from Dulles was interpreted by Moscow as a *carte blanche* to intervene and the Americans would not stand in the way. That is why he titled the relevant chapter in his book on the rise and fall of communism in the region "The lost opportunity: 1956."

So what do our Baltic friends advise right now in the face of Putin's threats to escalate if we supply Ukraine with fighter jets or other advanced weapons?

Believe it or not, their advice is to relax. In other words, don't overreact to Putin's threats.

We have a nuclear deterrent and Putin knows that. The more we show we are scared by his threats, the harder he will push. And we absolutely need to stop declaring what we will not do in regard to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. That just seems to embolden Putin to push harder.

The failure to push back the previous Russian aggressions—and that is not just a Biden problem. That is a problem of both Republican and Democratic Presidents before. Also the failure to enforce previous redlines in Syria and the perception of weakness from the Afghanistan pullout debacle—those three things are at least part of the reason for what is going on in Ukraine.

I hope President Biden has picked up on this as well.

Now is the time to redouble our efforts to reinforce Ukraine. Putin appears to have accepted that he cannot conquer all of Ukraine, but he is very definitely repositioning his forces to take as big of a chunk of the country as he can.

Ukraine must win this war—on to victory. Anything short of a Ukraine victory is an invitation for further Russian aggression elsewhere and, who knows, maybe even encouraging China.

We have got to stop the finger-pointing. We have got to stop the excuses, and we have got to get Ukraine air defenses, drones, and anything else to shift the balance.

To date, the United States and our allies have supplied the heroic Ukrainian military with the kinds of weapons that have allowed them to hang on while their cities are shelled and civilians are massacred.

The battle for Kyiv may have been won, but the battle for the east is only going to intensify. Unless we tip the balance, this could go on for a long, long time.

We have seen how brutal the Russian occupation has been in just 1 month. Imagine months and months of this in eastern Ukraine.

I have a bill with my friend Senator DURBIN to guarantee that the United States will backfill certain critical weapons transferred to Ukraine by our eastern flank of NATO allies. Many NATO countries have been very generous in handing over their weapons to Ukraine. This is leaving a security gap in those very countries. But they know that if Putin isn't stopped in Ukraine, then those countries are at greater risk. As Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas says, Putin cannot even think he has won or his appetite will only grow.

Some of our NATO allies also have air defense systems and drones that could make a big difference in Ukraine.

There are rumors of negotiations to supply items needed in Ukraine, provided there is agreement to acquire American replacements. My bill with Durbin would provide that assurance up front without the redtape that seems to be involved in almost everything we do to help Ukraine.

Putin has talked constantly about what he calls "demilitarization and denazification" as his justification for launching this brutal invasion of Ukraine. That phrase does not make much sense on its face, but, again, we have to keep in mind that Putin has an imperial mindset.

No military analyst looking at Ukraine and Russia could possibly think that Ukraine posed any military threat to Russia. The Russian military dwarfs the Ukrainian one in manpower as well as equipment. In fact, it is clear that Putin and his military leaders underestimated the fighting ability of the Ukrainians.

The same is frankly true of NATO's military power along Russia's borders. What Putin means by "demilitarizing" is to shrink Ukraine's military to the point that that country is indefensible. He wants Ukraine totally susceptible to Russian threats, meaning back within Russia's sphere of influence.

Now, what about the term "denazification"? Ever since World War II, Soviet leaders routinely labeled those in the Soviet Republics who expressed a desire for independence that they were fascist or Nazi. It is pretty clear that Putin's initial goal was to

eliminate Ukraine's current government, starting with President Zelenskyy. So despite being descended from Holocaust survivors, denazification starts, from Putin's point of view, by eliminating a Jewish President, Zelenskyy.

A recent article in a Russian state-run publication, RIA Novosti, confirmed that denazification means that the elected government must be eliminated as well as the Ukrainian military. But this article goes on to say:

However, in addition to the top, a significant part of the masses who are passive Nazis, accomplices of Nazism, are also guilty. They supported and indulged Nazi power. . . . Denazification will inevitably be de-Ukrainianization.

This ought to be very chilling to all of us, especially in light of the massacre at Bucha that we saw on television this week and other Ukrainian cities.

That statement reminds me of this quote from Catherine the Great after she completed her takeover of an independent Ukrainian state just 10 years before our own Declaration of Independence:

Every effort should be made to eradicate them and their age from memory.

"Them" meaning the Ukrainians.

Stalin killed millions of Ukrainians by intentionally starving them to death with the same goal in the early 1930s.

Now, you know that Putin has praised Stalin and is now imitating Stalin.

The U.N. Genocide Convention defines genocide to mean "any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group, as such: (a) Killing members of the group; (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

That sure seems to fit with what we know about Putin and his occupation of Ukraine.

There is one last lesson that we can learn from our Baltic friends. Despite the murder and deportation to Siberia of masses of Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians to suppress their national identity, there were 10 years of active guerilla warfare by bands of what they called Forest Brothers. In fact, resistance never really ended until the Baltic countries threw off Soviet rule.

I will leave you with the first few lines of the Ukrainian national anthem:

The glory and freedom of Ukraine has not yet perished.

Luck will still smile on us, brother-Ukrainians.

Our enemies will die, as the dew does in the sunshine,

And we, too, brothers, we'll live happily in our land.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONFIRMATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise today to celebrate the confirmation of now Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson as a Justice on the Supreme Court of the United States of America.

It is an important moment for our country but also a special moment for me because Angela, my wife, and two of our sons are here visiting the Capitol this week. They witnessed history in the making when we voted to confirm, just a few minutes ago, Justice Jackson. Angela and I take great joy in knowing that not just our three sons but young people across the country will see Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson as an example of the great heights that they, too, can achieve.

For the very first time in our Nation's history, the Senate has confirmed a Black woman to the Supreme Court of the United States. For only the sixth time, we have confirmed a woman to the Supreme Court, and for the fourth time, we have confirmed a working mother. It is also the first time in 50 years that the Senate has confirmed a Justice with public defense experience.

This nomination represents progress, and I am heartened that it was a bipartisan majority of Senators who came together to make history today. I also know that this progress would not have been possible without someone who was brave enough to step ahead on her own; without someone willing to work twice as hard in order to be the first; without someone able to persevere no matter how challenging, how difficult, or how full of doubt her path ahead may sometimes be.

It shouldn't have been this hard. As you know, I am a member of the Judiciary Committee, so I can attest that, when then-Judge Jackson came before the committee with an outstanding judicial record, with bipartisan acclaim, and historic qualifications, she came prepared. She did answer a whole range of important questions, and she was forthcoming. She was clear and gracious.

Many Senators took the opportunity to engage deeply on issues that will shape the future of our Nation—issues like the role of technology and innovation, voting rights, Tribal sovereignty, and much, much more; but, sadly, as has been referenced, some of our colleagues chose to fill their time with hostility, bad faith, and misleading smears.

They chose to hold Judge Jackson to a different standard than other Supreme Court nominees whom they

themselves had previously supported. In the same breath as they tried to praise Judge Jackson's character and qualifications, they denigrated her motives; they questioned her impartiality and made up excuse after excuse for why they couldn't support her nomination. It was painful to watch, not just for me but for people across the country.

Judge Jackson was in the spotlight for days, but she continually met disrespect with calm composure. It is an experience that is all too common for those with the audacity to break new ground. Judge Jackson was unfairly tested, but she persevered.

I believe that Judge Jackson deserved better than the treatment she received during the confirmation process. When you see Senators cast aside their good faith in questioning nominees, the threat to the integrity of our justice system is very real, and the cynicism it breeds for our institutions is real. These are the issues that this Senate and that each Senator must confront.

But, today, I want to—and I choose to—celebrate the historic achievement of this confirmation.

Over the last few weeks, I have received thousands of letters and emails and other messages, including on social media, from Californians who support Justice Jackson's confirmation. The messages have come from people of all backgrounds and from every corner of my home State. I have heard from Californians who admire the tenacity, the grace, and the integrity that Justice Jackson showed in committee. I have also gotten messages from so many Californians, young Californians, who see themselves in Justice Jackson's story and from Californians who say that the Court and our country will be better because of her service.

So, as we cast our historic votes, I celebrate the better America that we are building, wherein our courts better reflect and understand the diverse country that they serve. I celebrate the joy that Justice Jackson has brought to people across not just California but across the Nation. I celebrate the commitment to equal rights and equal justice that she will bring to the Supreme Court; and I celebrate the inspiration that she provides to young people, especially young people of color, who will write the next chapter of our American story.

When Judge Jackson introduced herself to the American people in the course of the confirmation hearing in the Judiciary Committee, she said that she stood on the shoulders of the civil rights icon and her personal hero, Judge Constance Baker Motley. For many in the next generation, their hero will be Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

I have shared with others and want to share again today that this confirmation represents one more step toward making our institutions and our courts more inclusive for all Americans.

So it is in that spirit that I ask unanimous consent to make a few additional remarks in Spanish.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PADILLA.

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

Today, we are celebrating a historic moment. We are celebrating the progress that we made to ensure that the Supreme Court better reflects our country.

Judge Jackson is more than qualified and is going to bring important and necessary perspectives to the Supreme Court. Unfortunately, she was attacked by Republicans during her confirmation process; but to every attack, Judge Jackson responded with grace and patience. She showed the country that she will be an exceptional Supreme Court Justice, and she will keep being an inspiration for the next generation.

Madam President, Judge—now Justice—Jackson has earned her place on the Supreme Court.

I will end by acknowledging that, while one person alone, sitting on a Court of nine equals, can't single-handedly create faith in the institution, I have every confidence that Justice Jackson will strengthen the Supreme Court and help our country progress forward.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONFIRMATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, an hour or so ago on the floor of the Senate was an amazing sight. It has been a long, long time since I have seen the Galleries full. COVID-19 kept us apart. I missed it. I didn't realize how much until those full Galleries were here to witness the vote on the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court.

It was a time of great celebration for most Members of the Senate and I think for the Nation because we have achieved something which many doubted would occur.

It has been 50 years since the first African American—Thurgood Marshall—was appointed to be a member of the U.S. Supreme Court. It was another 50 years for us to wait for the opportunity to put a person, a woman of color, on the Court. And we did it today.

Soon, in the coming future, the President will be swearing in Judge, now-Justice Jackson. I am certain that she will be a credit to our Nation. She has already proven that in her lifetime of service.

Many Members of the Senate, of course, were excited and happy about it. I was one of them. I want to thank my colleagues for their kind words, but I also want to acknowledge the obvious.

All of the hard work that led up to this successful vote happened a lot behind the scenes. There were members of our staff who worked long hours—20-hour days—to prepare for this and to be ready to handle the important Judiciary Committee hearings. I would like to acknowledge the staff members on both sides of the aisle who worked tirelessly on Judge Jackson's nomination.

I have got quite a team on my side, and I am very proud of them. I want to recognize the following individuals who played an important part in this historic process: Pat Souders, my chief of staff; Joe Zogby, my Senate Judiciary Committee staff director; Dan Swanson, general counsel; Stephanie Trifone, deputy general counsel; Sally Brown-Shaklee, my deputy chief of staff; Maalik Simmons and Miriam Wheatley, my floor staff who are often sitting right in the back of this Chamber; Claire Reuschel and Riley Foti, my schedulers; my press staff, including Emily Hampsten, my communications director; Jenna Valle-Riestra; Maddie Carlos; Theresa Bordenave; and Laura Keller, and many others on my Judiciary team, including Phil Brest, who was my chief nominations counsel—he worked so hard on this, and he is so good—Sarah Bauer, who was right by his side working every minute; and Gabe Kader, as well; Ziya Smallens, speechwriter; Joe Charlet; Vaishalee Yeldandi; Maggie Hopkins; Anna Shepard; David Adeleye; Eric Chung; Eliza Lehner; Samir Sheth; David McCallum; Mady Reno; Katya Kazmin; Rachel Martinez, Yashi Gunawardena; Doug Miller; Chastidy Burns; Nicole Walton; Lane Giardina; and many, many others.

I also would like to recognize some members of Senator GRASSLEY's staff. Now, he—for those who wouldn't know—is my Republican counterpart. I chair a committee evenly divided—11 to 11—and Senator GRASSLEY is in charge of the Republican side. We have developed a strong friendship and trust over the years that really meant a lot during this process.

I want to recognize Senator GRASSLEY's staff members, in particular: Kolan Davis, his staff director of many years; Brendan Chestnut, his chief nominations counsel; and Lauren Mehler, his senior counsel for nominations.

Our two staffs worked very well together in this process, and I really appreciate that. I want to thank Senator GRASSLEY, again, for it.

I want to thank the committee's non-designated staff, including Heather Vachon, Michelle Heller, Bryan Palmer, Kara Dubbs, Shannon Bartley, Chuck Papirmeister, and others.

I want to also express my gratitude to the larger Senate community who played a part in Judge Jackson's nomination process: the staff of the Architect of the Capitol, the Sergeant at Arms, and of course the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police Force who were critical to the success of the

hearing and markups for Judge Jackson's nomination. More than 1,000 people occupied the chairs in the back of the committee room in the 4 days of hearings. It was the largest gathering, largest crowd, short of the State of the Union Address, in modern memory on the Senate. And today's Gallery attendance, again, was something, a welcome change from the forlorn empty Chamber's Galleries that we have come to be used to.

I also want to thank and add the names of the Senate staff who were so instrumental in supporting the committee's proceedings.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a list of Senate staff who were instrumental in supporting the committee's proceedings.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Ronda Stewart	SAA—Security Planning and Police Coordination Director
Wendy Colmore	SAA—Access Control and Transportation Director
Jaivon Gibbs	SAA—Police Coordination Analyst
Amanda Simmons	SAA—Senior Program Manager
Mike Mastrian	SAA—Radio & TV Director
Erin Yeatman	SAA—Sr. Media Relations Coordinator
Tamara Robinson	SAA—Media Relations Coordinator
Charles Moxley	SAA—Media Relations Coordinator
Jeff Kent	SAA—Press Photographers Director
Mark Abraham	SAA—Press Photographers Deputy Director
Tricia Munro	SAA—Press Photographers, Senior Assistant Director
Matt Grant	SAA—Press Photographers, Assistant Director
Justin Wilson	SAA—Periodical Press Director
Spencer Barks	SAA—Media Relations Coordinator
Lindsey Bowen	SAA—Media Relations Coordinator
Laura Lytle	SAA—Daily Press Director
Kristyn Socknat	SAA—Daily Press, Sr. Media Relations Coordinator
Amy Gross	SAA—Daily Press, Sr. Media Relations Coordinator
Kate Leavitt	SAA—Daily Press, Media Relations Assistant
Inspector John Erickson	USCP Senate Division
Captain Kenneth Wheeler	USCP Senate Division
Captain Matthew Tighe	USCP Senate Division
Lieutenant Vidal Adams	USCP Senate Division
Sergeant Adam Descamp	USCP Senate Division
Sergeant David Van Benschoten	USCP Senate Division
Sergeant John Ruskoski	USCP Senate Division
Sergeant Howard Jaslow	USCP Senate Division
Sergeant Jeffery Andrews	USCP Senate Division
Sergeant Charles Nelson	USCP Senate Division

Mr. DURBIN. With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRANSGENDER RIGHTS

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I am one of the few parents of young children in the Senate. But almost every one of us here is a parent, so you know that one of the most spectacular things your kid can do is to write you a letter. Sometimes—frankly, most of the time—when I have gotten those letters,

it is because my kid wants to protest something that I have done. I have gotten a few of those where my kids are so upset about a rule or a decision that we have made as parents, they sit down and they catalog their grievances on paper.

Maybe if you are lucky, you get a nice letter. My in-laws have one still plastered up on their wall from their youngest daughter who wrote them a nice list when she was young about the things she appreciated. But those “Dear Mommy” or “Dear Daddy” letters, that is one of the rare joys of parenthood.

On March 6, 2018, Patricia Verbeeck awoke to find one of those letters for her left by her child Eric. It was laying on the pillow of his bed. She picked it up, and she read it to herself. “Dear Mommy,” her child wrote. Maybe her eyes twinkled thinking of what sweet or funny thoughts might come next. But this is what the letter said:

Dear Mommy, I am sorry to do this to you, but I have killed myself by jumping off the top floor, the 12th floor, of your building . . . at the nearest stair exit to the elevators on that floor.

I felt I could no longer live my life as a lie, living as a boy, instead of the girl I knew I could become. I am sorry I lied to you. I was losing hope in the world and could not see my way out of the wrong body and I decided it was time for my life to end . . .

As you might imagine, Patricia didn’t get beyond that first line. Upon reading it, she dropped the letter, and she ran straight to her balcony and below, she saw the vague outline of a body and police officers surrounding it.

I follow President Trump’s family members on social media. I do it because I know how influential they are. I know how many Americans—good, decent Americans—admire them and listen to what they say.

Lately, the posts from Trump’s family members have just been of one theme: America should fear transgender children. The Trump family and their network of supporters and sycophants have decided that Eric Verbeeck and other kids like them are the No. 1 problem facing America today. And over the past year, this crowd has orchestrated a relentless and unceasing campaign to marginalize, demonize, and bully kids whose gender identity is different from their biological sex.

This year alone, Republican State legislatures across the country have introduced 150 bills to deny rights to transgender Americans.

Today, the Alabama legislature introduced legislation that is fast-tracked, from what I understand, to become law that makes it a felony—a felony—for a doctor to provide healthcare to a transgender child. In Texas, the Governor directed his child welfare agency to investigate parents like Patricia who are simply determined to support their children if they help them secure the gender-affirming treatment they need. Criminalizing parents of transgender children is just around the corner in some States.

In Congress, Trump’s allies spent more time talking about transgender kids than they spent talking about healthcare or taxes or education. Congresswoman MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE—perhaps Trump’s best ally in the House—had a sign outside her office calling the experience of transpeople a “fiction” just to bully her hallway neighbor, Representative MARIE NEWMAN, who has a transgender daughter.

And in the Supreme Court hearings here last month, at least one Senator used their time on the national stage to suggest that the entire idea of being transgender is a leftwing hoax.

All across America, Republicans—not all Republicans but the Trump wing of the Republican Party has declared war against transgender kids, and these children have noticed. A recent survey of transgender youth showed that half of them—52 percent—had contemplated suicide over the last year.

Just think about that for a second, my colleagues, half of all the kids who are transgender come to the conclusion at some point in their young lives that they would be better off dead than live in a world that believes they are threats to be marginalized or expunged. That is a national crisis, and we need to talk, honestly and candidly, about what has led us to this moment.

We need to start by acknowledging that this conversation is long overdue. This dialogue about transgender children, it may feel new, but transgender kids aren’t, transgender adults aren’t. The only difference between today and, say, 50 years ago, is that today there is space for kids and adults to be open about who they truly are.

We are all born with a biological sex. And centuries of tightly controlled constructs about what a man should be and what a man should act like and what a woman should be and what a woman should act like, they have sort-of human beings into personality and professional profiles based on that gender.

But there are many of us—this has been the case for human history—who don’t associate with the gender that biological chance ascribed to us. There are people who are assigned male at birth who feel, in their bones, that they are female. That is what Eric felt. That is what Eric knew. And there are people who are assigned female at birth, but know, they just know, that they are male.

And there is nothing wrong with that. That process of figuring out which gender you identify with, it poses no threat to anyone. But we do have to acknowledge how hard it is, given those centuries of gender identity and stereotypes, for some Americans to understand what a kid like Eric was going through.

For Americans, for instance, who were born a male and feel like a male and who are surrounded by family and friends who associate with a gender that matches the sex they were born

into, the whole notion of a boy becoming a girl or a girl becoming a boy—I get it—that can be disconcerting. It can be difficult to understand. But I also know that this discomfort will pass as more Americans learn what I have learned. Transgender and non-binary children aren’t any different than any other kids.

You might not know a transgender or nonbinary kid, but, trust, me, you do. You know what these kids are like because they are no different than any other children. My son has transgender and nonbinary friends. He has nontransgender friends, but when they are all sitting around our kitchen after school, there is no difference between them in terms of how they act and how they talk, what they are like, what they like, what they don’t like. They are kids. They are just kids.

And so here is my message to the adults with power who have decided to spend their days bullying these kids: Stop it. Grow up. So you are not ready to accept transgender people, fine. I hope you come around someday. But these kids threaten no one. They are hurting no one.

And, well, there are important conversations we need to have about how we include transgender kids fully in sports. I could walk into a room of a thousand people in my State and ask how many of them have had a child lose a sporting event to a transgender girl and not a single hand would raise.

Saving girls sports is not the reason why Donald Trump and MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE and their whole political movement has made bullying transgender kids their top priority. No, it is their top priority because they know hate and fear of what some people don’t understand has a habit of selling in this country. I wish that weren’t true, but it has always been true.

There is always going to be a constituency in America that will listen to an argument for why Black people or Mexicans or Muslims or gay people or transgender people are ruining America, why we should fear them.

It is not true. It has never been true. But demagogues and their movements, they tend not to have actual ideas, things they are for. Demagogues normally just focus on what they hate.

Let me say it again. Half of all transgender children in this country have thought to themselves, at some point, that they would be better off dead than live in a world where so many people fear them. That is heartbreaking to know that we are doing that to these kids.

Being a teenager today—I know; I have one—with social media and the pandemic, it is hard enough, but imagine being a teenager who wakes up every day knowing that they aren’t the gender they were assigned by biology at birth. Imagine keeping your feelings about that secret for years, worried—worried—about what your parents or your friends might say.

Imagine the anguish of a scared 12-year-old or 14-year-old sitting in bed

awake for hours each night trying to process all of that alone with no help. Imagine the courage it then takes for that kid to have the first conversation with a parent or a friend. And then layer on top of that some of the most powerful people in the world deciding to use their power not to cure disease or end poverty or hunger but instead to use their power to target those very scared, desperate kids and to use their powers to harass and bully and shame them.

Imagine how small, how insecure, how weak a person must be to have all that power and to use it to bully children.

Seth Walsh was gay, not transgender, but his experience was not much different than Eric's. Students at his school were systematic in their targeting of him because of his sexual orientation. They pushed him down the stairs. They kicked him until he was badly bruised. They screamed at him. They called him names. No doubt these bullies took direction and inspiration from adults who paved the way, who endorsed this kind of hateful behavior.

One day, after one of these incidents, a frightened Seth called his mom and he said: "Mom, you have to come get me right now." His mom could feel—hear the fear in his voice, and so she grabbed Seth's little brother and they got in the car and they rushed to pick him up. His mom was so supportive. That afternoon they sat and they talked.

Seth took a shower to calm himself down, and afterward he asked his mom for a pen and told her that he was going to go outside and play with the dogs. About 10 minutes later, his mom went outside to continue this conversation with her son, but it was too late. Seth had hung himself from a tree. The pen that he asked for was for his suicide note.

I tell you these stories because they are consequences of adults' behavior. Donald Trump and MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE and their ilk, they aren't murderers, but make no mistake, there is a direct through line from the hateful words and the policies of leaders and the misery that too many transgender, nonbinary, and gay kids are going through today.

But I am also here to tell you that Trump and TAYLOR GREENE, others like them, they are not the majority. And I want to make sure that I finish by sending a message to transgender children and adults that these hateful people, this movement that is growing out there to try to target you, it is not going to win. We are going to build a community of love and protection for you. No matter how bad things may seem right now, they are going to get better. The world is going to get kinder. Adults are going to learn their lessons. And if you don't have it now, as you are struggling with your identity, you will find a support structure that will nurture and support you. It is out there for you. You should be who

you are. Don't feel like you need to hide your true self just because of these idiot adults who feel big by bullying people who are different from them.

Be who you are and know that there are a whole lot of us who are going to work our tails off to support you, to love you, and to make sure that you get a chance to thrive—because in the long run, the bullies never win. They never do.

I yield the floor.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 117-81, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Afghanistan War Commission: Seth Jones of Virginia.

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 117-2

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on April 7, 2022, by the President of the United States: the extradition treaty with the Republic of Albania, Treaty Document No. 117-2. I further ask that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred with accompanying papers to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Extradition Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Albania (the "Treaty"), signed at Tirana on December 22, 2020. I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty would replace the extradition treaty between the United States and Albania, signed at Tirana on March 1, 1933. The Treaty follows generally the form and content of other extradition treaties recently concluded by the United States. It would replace an outmoded list of extraditable offenses with a modern "dual criminality" approach, which would enable extradition for such offenses as money laundering, cyber-related crimes, and other newer offenses not appearing on the list. The Treaty also contains a modernized "political offense" clause and provides that extradition shall not be refused based on the nationality of the person sought. Finally, the Treaty incorporates a series

of procedural improvements to streamline and expedite the extradition process.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 7, 2022.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 646, 790, 814, 863, 864; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Oren E. Whyche-Shaw, of Maryland, to be United States Director of the African Development Bank for a term of five years; Adriana Debora Kugler, of Maryland, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years; Steven H. Fagin, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Yemen; Erik Kristopher Raven, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of the Navy; and William A. LaPlante, Jr., of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment? The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STRENGTHENING OVERSIGHT FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2021

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 304, S. 2687.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2687) to provide the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs testimonial subpoena authority, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Tester substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5024) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening Oversight for Veterans Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. TESTIMONIAL SUBPOENA AUTHORITY OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 312 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d)(1)(A) In addition to the authority otherwise provided by the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) and in accordance with the requirements of this subsection, the Inspector General, in carrying out the provisions of this section, may require by subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses as necessary in the performance of the functions assigned to the Inspector General by the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) and this section, which in the case of contumacy or refusal to obey, such subpoena shall be enforceable by order of any appropriate district court of the United States.

“(B) The Inspector General may not require by subpoena the attendance and testimony under subparagraph (A) of—

“(i) any current Federal employee; or

“(ii) any witness as part of any criminal proceeding.

“(2) The authority to issue a subpoena under paragraph (1) may not be delegated.

“(3)(A) The Inspector General shall notify the Attorney General of the intent to issue a subpoena under paragraph (1).

“(B) Not later than 10 days after the date on which the Attorney General is notified pursuant to subparagraph (A), the Attorney General may object in writing to the issuance of the subpoena if the subpoena will interfere with an ongoing investigation and, if the Attorney General makes such an objection, the Inspector General may not issue the subpoena.

“(C) If the Attorney General does not object in writing to the issuance of the subpoena during the 10-day period described in subparagraph (B), the Inspector General may issue the subpoena.

“(4) Before requiring by subpoena under paragraph (1) the attendance and testimony of a witness, the Inspector General shall, to the degree practicable—

“(A) notify the witness of the intent of the Inspector General to issue the subpoena; and

“(B) provide the witness an opportunity to attend and testify voluntarily.

“(5) Whenever requiring by subpoena under paragraph (1) the attendance and testimony

of a witness, the Inspector General shall, to the greatest extent practicable, travel to residence of the witness, the principal place of business of the witness, or other similar location that is in proximity to the residence of the witness.

“(6)(A) Along with each semiannual report submitted by the Inspector General pursuant to section 5(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 5(b)), the Inspector General shall include a report on the exercise of the authority provided by paragraph (1).

“(B) Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include, for the most recently completed six-month period, the following:

“(i) The number of testimonial subpoenas issued and the number of individuals interviewed pursuant to such subpoenas.

“(ii) The number of proposed testimonial subpoenas with respect to which the Attorney General objected under paragraph (3)(B).

“(iii) A discussion of any challenges or concerns that the Inspector General has encountered exercising the authority provided by paragraph (1).

“(iv) Such other matters as the Inspector General considers appropriate.

“(7)(A) The authority provided by paragraph (1)(A) shall terminate on May 31, 2025.

“(B) The termination of authority by subparagraph (A) shall not affect the enforceability of a subpoena issued under paragraph (1)(A) before the date of such termination.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (d) of section 312 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) SEMIANNUAL REPORT.—Paragraph (6) of subsection (d) of such section, as so added, shall apply beginning on the date that is seven months after the first day of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 2687), as amended, was passed.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VETERANS’ EMERGENCY CARE CLAIMS PARITY ACT

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1875 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1875) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a deadline of 180 days for the filing of claims for payment for emergency treatment furnished to veterans, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rounds substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to, that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5026) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans’ Emergency Care Claims Parity Act”.

SEC. 2. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT FURNISHED TO VETERANS.

(a) TREATMENT FOR NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1725 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (h); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsections (f) and (g):

“(f) SUBMITTAL OF CLAIMS FOR DIRECT PAYMENT.—An individual or entity seeking payment under subsection (a)(2) for treatment provided to a veteran in lieu of reimbursement to the veteran shall submit a claim for such payment not later than 180 days after the latest date on which such treatment was provided.

“(g) HOLD HARMLESS.—No veteran described in subsection (b) may be held liable for payment for emergency treatment described in such subsection if—

“(1) a claim for direct payment was submitted by an individual or entity under subsection (f); and

“(2) such claim was submitted after the deadline established by such subsection due to—

“(A) an administrative error made by the individual or entity, such as submission of the claim to the wrong Federal agency, under the wrong reimbursement authority (such as section 1728 of this title), or submission of the claim after the deadline; or

“(B) an administrative error made by the Department, such as misplacement of a paper claim or deletion of an electronic claim.”.

(b) TREATMENT FOR AND IN CONNECTION WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.—Section 1728 of such title is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

“(c) No veteran described in subsection (a) may be held liable for payment for emergency treatment described in such subsection if—

“(1) a claim for direct payment was submitted by an individual or entity under subsection (b)(2); and

“(2) such claim was submitted after a deadline established by the Secretary for purposes of this section due to—

“(A) an administrative error made by the individual or entity, such as submission of

the claim to the wrong Federal agency or submission of the claim after the deadline; or

“(B) an administrative error made by the Department, such as misplacement of a paper claim or deletion of an electronic claim.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such title is amended—

(1) in section 1705A(d), by striking “section 1725(f)” and inserting “section 1725(h)”;

(2) in section 1725(b)(3)(B), by striking “subsection (f)(2)(B) or (f)(2)(C)” and inserting “subsection (h)(2)(B) or (h)(2)(C)”;

(3) in section 1728(d), as redesignated by subsection (b)(4), by striking “section 1725(f)(1)” and inserting “section 1725(h)(1)”;

(4) in section 1781(a)(4), by striking “section 1725(f)” and inserting “section 1725(h)”;

and

(5) in section 1787(b)(3), by striking “section 1725(f)” and inserting “section 1725(h)”.

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF CLARIFYING INFORMATION FOR NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVIDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish on one or more publicly available internet websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including the main internet website regarding emergency care authorization for non-Department providers, the following information:

(1) A summary table or similar resource that provides a list of all authorities of the Department to authorize emergency care from non-Department providers and, for each such authority, the corresponding deadline for submission of claims.

(2) An illustrated summary of steps, such as a process map, with a checklist for the submission of clean claims that non-Department providers can follow to assure compliance with the claims-filing process of the Department.

(3) Contact information for the appropriate office or service line of the Department to address process questions from non-Department providers.

(b) PERIODIC REVIEW.—Not less frequently than once every 180 days, the Secretary shall review the information published under subsection (a) to ensure that such information is current.

(c) CLEAN CLAIMS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “clean claims” means clean electronic claims and clean paper claims (as those terms are defined in section 1703D(i) of title 38, United States Code).

The bill (S. 1875), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA SHOULD IMMEDIATELY GUARANTEE THE SAFETY AND FREEDOM OF TENNIS STAR PENG SHUAI

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 323, S. Res. 503.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 503) expressing the sense of the Senate that the Government of the People's Republic of China should immediately guarantee the safety and freedom of tennis star Peng Shuai.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic, and with an amendment to strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

Whereas, on November 2, 2021, 3-time Olympic Peng Shuai went missing after she said in a since-deleted post on Chinese social media site Weibo that she had been sexually assaulted and forced into a sexual relationship with Zhang Gaoli, who was the senior Vice Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China from 2013 to 2018;

Whereas authorities of the People's Republic of China imposed a media and internet blackout of discussions of Peng's case;

Whereas, on November 14, 2021, after Peng had not been seen or heard from for 12 days, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Women's Tennis Association Steve Simon requested a “full, fair, and transparent” investigation into Peng's allegations;

Whereas the hashtag “#WhereIsPengShuai” trended across social media worldwide, with the exception of the People's Republic of China where it was censored;

Whereas, on November 17, 2021, the Women's Tennis Association received a statement purporting to be from Peng, recanting her abuse claim and saying “everything is fine”;

Whereas, in response, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Women's Tennis Association Steve Simon said the statement “released today by Chinese state media concerning Peng Shuai only raises my concerns as to her safety and whereabouts”;

Whereas the International Olympic Committee said in a statement that it was “encouraged by assurances that she is safe”;

Whereas, on November 19 and 20, 2021, photos and videos of Peng appearing in her home, in a restaurant, and at a youth tennis event in Beijing emerged on Twitter accounts affiliated with government-run media;

Whereas, on November 19, 2021, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said the White House is “deeply concerned” over Peng's disappearance and seeks “independent and verifiable proof” of her location and condition;

Whereas, on November 19, 2021, Liz Throssell, the spokesperson for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, told reporters “. . . it would be important to have proof of her whereabouts and wellbeing, and we would urge that there be an investigation with full transparency into her allegations of sexual assault”;

Whereas, on November 21, 2021, the International Olympic Committee said in a statement that its President, Thomas Bach, had a 30-minute video call with Peng, joined by a Chinese sports official and an official of the International Olympic Committee;

Whereas the statement said that, during the call, Peng appeared to be “doing fine” and appeared “relaxed”, and said she “would like to have her privacy respected”;

Whereas the International Olympic Committee did not explain how the video call with Peng had been organized, given the difficulties other concerned parties have had reaching her;

Whereas, on November 30, 2021, in an interview with CNN, International Olympic Committee official Dick Pound defended the handling of the situation by the Government of the People's Republic of China and said the “unanimous conclusion” by International Olympic Committee officials on the call is that Peng Shuai is “fine”;

Whereas the annual report of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China for 2020 finds that gender-based violence in China remains a serious issue, and highly publicized cases of sexual assault continue to surface;

Whereas, on December 1, 2021, the Women's Tennis Association suspended all Women's Tennis Association tournaments in China and Hong Kong;

Whereas Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Women's Tennis Association Steve Simon stated, “In good conscience, I don't see how I can ask our athletes to compete there when Peng Shuai is not allowed to communicate freely and has seemingly been pressured to contradict her allegation of sexual assault. Given the current state of affairs, I am also greatly concerned about the risks that all of our players and staff could face if we were to hold events in China in 2022.”; and

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has repeatedly detained “#MeToo” activists in China and censored online and public discussion around sexual assault and harassment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the case of Peng Shuai is directly related to broader international concerns around the freedom of speech and safety of athletes participating in the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing;

(2) the failure of the International Olympic Committee to clearly and forcefully challenge the claims of the Government of the People's Republic of China concerning Peng's safety raise questions about the ability and willingness of the International Olympic Committee to stand up for the human rights of athletes participating in the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic games in Beijing;

(3) the Government of the People's Republic of China would help reduce concerns about athlete safety at the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing by assuring Peng's freedom and safety and investigating her allegations in a fair and transparent manner;

(4) the Government of the People's Republic of China should immediately take steps to—

(A) provide independent and verifiable proof of Peng's whereabouts and that she is safe;

(B) allow Peng to engage directly with the Women's Tennis Association and the United Nations to independently verify her safety and explain her absence from public life since making her allegation;

(C) open an independent and transparent investigation into Peng's allegations against former senior Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli;

(D) publicly commit to hold sexual violence abusers accountable;

(E) cease all censorship of reporting and discussions of Peng's case; and

(F) allow Peng to leave China if she so desires and prevent any retaliation against family members remaining there;

(5) by failing to clearly and forcefully challenge the Chinese Communist Party's narrative, the International Olympic Committee has failed to uphold its own stated commitments with regard to “[r]espect for international conventions on protecting human rights”, as outlined in the Code of Ethics of the International Olympic Committee;

(6) the conduct of the International Olympic Committee runs counter to efforts by the United States Government, human rights organizations, the Women's Tennis Association, and other international bodies and individuals to secure Peng's safety; and

(7) in an effort to regain lost public confidence, the International Olympic Committee should publicly call on the Government of the People's Republic of China to undertake the actions called for in paragraph (4).

That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the case of Peng Shuai is directly related to broader international concerns around the freedom of speech and safety in China;

(2) the failure of the International Olympic Committee to clearly and forcefully challenge the claims of the Government of the People's Republic of China concerning Peng's safety raises

questions about the ability and willingness of the International Olympic Committee to stand up for the human rights of athletes participating in the Olympic and Paralympic games in Beijing, as well as in future games;

(3) the Government of the People's Republic of China should immediately take steps to—

(A) allow Peng to provide independent and verifiable proof of her own whereabouts and safety without retribution;

(B) allow Peng to engage directly with the Women's Tennis Association and the United Nations to independently verify her safety and explain her absences from public life since making her allegation;

(C) open an independent and transparent investigation into Peng's allegations against former senior Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli;

(D) publicly commit to hold sexual violence abusers accountable;

(E) cease all censorship of reporting and discussions of Peng's case; and

(F) allow Peng to leave China if she so desires and prevent any retaliation against family members remaining there;

(4) the International Olympic Committee, by failing to clearly and forcefully challenge the Chinese Communist Party's narrative, has failed to uphold its own stated commitments with regard to "[r]espect for international conventions on protecting human rights", as outlined in the Code of Ethics of the International Olympic Committee, and runs counter to efforts by the United States Government, human rights organizations, the Women's Tennis Association, and other international bodies and individuals to secure Peng's safety;

(5) to regain lost public confidence, the International Olympic Committee should publicly call on the Government of the People's Republic of China to undertake the actions called for in paragraph (3); and

(6) to demonstrate commitment to Olympic athletes and their human rights, the International Olympic Committee should deny the ability of the People's Republic of China to serve as an Olympic Games host nation or to bid to become a future Olympic Games host nation until the Government of the People's Republic of China ceases its horrific abuses of internationally recognized human rights, including the genocide against the Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities, and undertakes the actions called for in paragraph (3).

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment to the resolution be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

Mr. MURPHY. I know of no further debate on the resolution, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on adopting the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 503), as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

BANKRUPTCY THRESHOLD ADJUSTMENT AND TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 3823, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3823) to amend title 11, United States Code, to modify the eligibility requirements for a debtor under chapter 13, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that the Grassley substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5025), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Bankruptcy Threshold Adjustment and Technical Corrections Act".

SEC. 2. BANKRUPTCY AMENDMENTS.

(a) DEFINITION OF SMALL BUSINESS DEBTOR.—Section 101(51D)(B) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by inserting "under this title" after "affiliated debtors"; and

(2) in clause (iii), by striking "an issuer" and all that follows and inserting "a corporation described in clause (ii)".

(b) ADJUSTMENTS FOR INFLATION.—Section 104 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting "1182(1)," after "707(b)."; and

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting "1182(1)," after "707(b).";

(c) WHO MAY BE A DEBTOR UNDER CHAPTER 13.—Section 109 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

"(e) Only an individual with regular income that owes, on the date of the filing of the petition, noncontingent, liquidated debts of less than \$2,750,000 or an individual with regular income and such individual's spouse, except a stockbroker or a commodity broker, that owe, on the date of the filing of the petition, noncontingent, liquidated debts that aggregate less than \$2,750,000 may be a debtor under chapter 13 of this title."

(d) DEFINITION OF DEBTOR.—Section 1182(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(1) DEBTOR.—The term 'debtor'—

"(A) subject to subparagraph (B), means a person engaged in commercial or business activities (including any affiliate of such person that is also a debtor under this title and excluding a person whose primary activity is the business of owning single asset real estate) that has aggregate noncontingent liquidated secured and unsecured debts as of

the date of the filing of the petition or the date of the order for relief in an amount not more than \$7,500,000 (excluding debts owed to 1 or more affiliates or insiders) not less than 50 percent of which arose from the commercial or business activities of the debtor; and

"(B) does not include—

"(i) any member of a group of affiliated debtors under this title that has aggregate noncontingent liquidated secured and unsecured debts in an amount greater than \$7,500,000 (excluding debt owed to 1 or more affiliates or insiders);

"(ii) any debtor that is a corporation subject to the reporting requirements under section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m, 78o(d)); or

"(iii) any debtor that is an affiliate of a corporation described in clause (ii)."

(e) TRUSTEE.—Section 1183(b)(5) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "possession, perform" and inserting "possession—

"(A) perform";

(2) in subparagraph (A), as so designated— (A) by striking ", including operating the business of the debtor"; and

(B) by adding "and" at the end; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) be authorized to operate the business of the debtor";

(f) CONFIRMATION OF PLAN.—Section 1191(c) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

"(3)(A) The debtor will be able to make all payments under the plan; or

"(B)(i) there is a reasonable likelihood that the debtor will be able to make all payments under the plan; and

"(ii) the plan provides appropriate remedies, which may include the liquidation of nonexempt assets, to protect the holders of claims or interests in the event that the payments are not made."

(g) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE BANKRUPTCY ADMINISTRATION IMPROVEMENT ACT.—Section 589a of title 28, United States Code is amended—

(1) in subsection (c) by striking "subsection (a)" and inserting "subsections (a) and (f)"; and

(2) in subsection (f)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "subsections (b) and (c)" and inserting "subsection (b)(5)"; and

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting "needed to offset the amount" after "amounts".

(h) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (b) and (c) and the amendments made by subsections (b) and (c) shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION OF CERTAIN AMENDMENTS.—The amendments made by subsections (a), (d), (e), and (f) shall apply with respect to any case that—

(A) is commenced under title 11, United States Code, on or after March 27, 2020; and

(B) with respect to a case that was commenced on or after March 27, 2020 and before the date of enactment of this Act, is pending on the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE OF TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO BAIA.—The amendments made by subsection (g) shall take effect as if enacted on October 1, 2021.

(i) SUNSETS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) subsection (e) of section 109 of title 11, United States Code is amended to read as such subsection read on the day before the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) section 1182(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(1) DEBTOR.—The term ‘debtor’ means a small business debtor.”.

(2) AMOUNTS.—For purposes of applying subsection (e) of section 109 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (1)(A), the amounts specified in such subsection shall be the amounts that were in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

The bill (S. 3823), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AMENDING TITLE 49, UNITED STATES CODE, TO ELIMINATE THE RESTRICTION ON VETERANS CONCURRENTLY SERVING IN THE OFFICES OF ADMINISTRATOR AND DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 317, S. 3785.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3785) A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to eliminate the restriction on veterans concurrently serving in the Offices of Administrator and Deputy Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The bill (S. 3785) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3785

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REMOVAL OF RESTRICTION ON VETERANS CONCURRENTLY SERVING IN THE OFFICES OF ADMINISTRATOR AND DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.

Section 106(d)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “, a retired regular officer of an armed force, or a former regular officer of an armed force”.

SAMYA ROSE STUMO NATIONAL AIR GRANT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ACT OF 2022

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 4070, which was introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4070) to designate the National Air Grant Fellowship Program as the

“Samya Rose Stumo National Air Grant Fellowship Program”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 4070) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 4070

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Samya Rose Stumo National Air Grant Fellowship Program Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. SAMYA ROSE STUMO NATIONAL AIR GRANT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 131 of division V of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note) is amended—

(A) in the section heading, by inserting “SAMYA ROSE STUMO” before “NATIONAL AIR GRANT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM”;

(B) in the paragraph heading of subsection (a)(4), by inserting “SAMYA ROSE STUMO” before “NATIONAL AIR GRANT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM”; and

(C) by inserting “Samya Rose Stumo” before “National Air Grant Fellowship Program” each place it appears.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 101(b) of division V of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (Public Law 116-260) is amended by striking the item relating to section 131 and by inserting the following:

“Sec. 131. Samya Rose Stumo National Air Grant Fellowship Program.”.

(b) REFERENCES.—On and after the date of enactment of this Act, any reference in a law, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the “National Air Grant Fellowship Program” shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Samya Rose Stumo National Air Grant Fellowship Program”.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the lives of 189 passengers and crew, who died in the Lion Air Flight 610 crash on October 29, 2018, are commemorated and recognized, including, but not limited to, Captain Bhavye Suneja, First Officer Harvino, Permadi Anggrumulja, Liu Chandra, Chairul Aswan, Resti Amelia, Reni Ariyanti, Daniel Suhardja Wijaya, Mardiman, Dadang, Diah Damayanti, Dolar, Dony, Dwinanto, Eryant, Cici Ariska, Fendi Christanto, Dr. Ibnu Fajariyadi Hantoro, Inayah Fatwa Kurnia Dewi, Hendra, Hesti Nuraini, Henry Heuw, Khotijah, Jannatun Cintya Dewi, Ammad Mughni, Sudibyo Onggowardoyo, Shintia Melina, Citra Novita Anggelia Putri, Alviani Hidayatul Solikha, Damayanti Simarmata, Mery Yulyanda, Putri Yuniarsi, Putty Fatikah Rani, Tan Toni, Tami Julian, Moedjiono, Deny Maula, Michelle Vergina Bonkal, Mathew Darryl Bongkal, Adonia Magdiel Bonkal, Fiona Ayu Zen S, Agil Nugroho Septian, Wahyu Alldilla, Xherdan Fachredzi, Deryl Fida Febrianto, Bambang Rosali Usman, Nikki Bagus Santoso, Andrea Manfredi, Muhammad Luthfi Nurrandhani, Shandy Johan Ramadhan, Muchtar Rasyid, Rebiyanti, Eka Suganda, Yulia Silvianti, Syahrudin, Sekar Maulana, Fais Saleh Harharah, Natalia Setiawan, Alfiani Hidayatul Solikah, Robert Susanto, Rudolf

Petrus Sayers, Muhammad Syafi, Sian Sian, Arif Yustian, Vicky Ardian, Wanto, and Verian Utama;

(2) the life of Samya Rose Stumo and the lives of 156 passengers and crew who died in the Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 crash on March 10, 2019, are commemorated and recognized, including, but not limited to, Abdishakur Shahad, Abdullahi Mohammed, Adam Kornaski, Adam Mbicha, Professor Agnes W. Gathumbi, Ahmednur Mohammed Omar, Alexandra Wachtmeister, Ama Tesfamariam, Ambassador Abiodun Oluremi Bashua, Ameen Ismail Noormohamed, Amina Ibrahim Odawaa, Amos Namanya, Angela Rehborn, Ann Wangui Karanja, Anne Mogoi Birundu, Anne (last name unknown), Anne-Katrin Feigl, Anushka Dixit, Ashka Dixit, Kosha Vaidya, Prerit Dixit, Bennett Riffel, Benson Maina Gathu, Bernard Musembi Mutua, Captain Yared Getachew, Carolyn Karanja, Ryan Njuguna, Kerri Pauls, Rubi Pauls, Cedric Asjavugwa, Chunming Jack Wang, Cosmas Kipnetgetch Rogony, CP Christine Alalo, Danielle Moore, Darcy Belanger, Dawn Tanner, Djordje Vdovic, Doaa Atef Abdel Salam, Dr. Ben Ahmed Chihab, Dr. Manisha Nukavarapu, Ekta Adhikari, Elsabet Menwyelet, Father George Mukua, First Officer Ahmednur Mohammed, Ayantu Girma, Sara Gebre Michael, Carlo Spini, Gabriella Viciani, George Kabau, George Kabugi, George Kamau Thugge, Getnet Alemayehu, GaoShuang, Ghislaine De Claremont, Harina Hafitz, Siraje Hussein Abdi, Hussein Swaleh, Isaac Mwangi, Isabella Beryl Achieng Jaboma, Jackson Musoni, Jared Babu Mwazo, Mercy Ngami Ndivo, Jessica Hyba, Joanna Toole, Jonathan Seex, Jordi Dalmau Sayol, Josefin Ekermann, Joseph Kuria Waithaka, Julia Mwashi, Karim Saafi, Karoline Aadland, Kodjo Glato, Marcelino Rassul Tayob, Marie Philipp, Maria Pilar Buzzetti, Matthew Vecere, Max Thabiso Eddins, Mel Riffel, Micah John Messent, Michael Ryan, Merif Yirgalem Areda, Juliet Otieno, Mulugeta Asfaw Shenkut, Mulusew Alemu, Mwazo, Nadia Adam Abaker Ali, Oliver Vick, Paolo Dieci, Peter DeMarsh, Professor Adesanmi, Saad Khalaf Al-Mutairi, Sam Pegram, Sara Chalachew, Sarah Auffret, Sebastiano Tusa, Shikha Garg, Sintayehu Aymeku, Sintayehu Shafi Balaker, Sofia Faisal Abdulkadir, Stephanie Lacroix, Stella Mbicha Konarska, Tamirat Mulu Demessie, Anthony Wanjohi Ngare, United States Army Captain Antoine Lewis, Vaibhav Lahoti, Victor Tsang, Virginia Chimenit, WangHeo, Xavier Fricaudet, Yekaterina Polyakova, Alexander Polyako, Zhen Zhen Huang, ZhouYuan, Pannagesh Vaidya, Hansini Vaidya, Joseph Waithaka, Blanka Hrnko, Martin Hrnko, Michala Hrnko, Sergei Vyalikov, Suzan Mohamed Abu-Farag, Nasser Fatehy Al-Azab Douban, Asraf Mohamed Abdel Halim Al-Turkim, Abdel-Hamid Farrag Mohamed Magly, Essmat Abdel-Sattar Taha Aransa, Jin Yetao, Derick Lwugi, Reverend Sister Florence Wangari Yongi, Melvin Riffel, Mwazo Mercy Ngami, Reverend Norman Tendis, and Pius Adesanmi;

(3) the life of Indonesian diver Syachrul Anto, who died during search and rescue recovery operations in the aftermath of the Lion Air Flight 610 crash, is commemorated and recognized; and

(4) the Senate and the House of Representatives express their condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of those who died on Lion Air Flight 610 and Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 and commend their ongoing advocacy to advance aviation safety for the flying public at large.

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS CONSORTIUM ACT OF 2021

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 658.

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 658) entitled "An Act to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, and for other purposes.", do pass with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment, and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS DAY

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 592, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 592) designating April 6, 2022, as "National Assistive Technology Awareness Day".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 592) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RELATING TO THE DEATH OF KANEASTER HODGES, JR., FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 593, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 593) relating to the death of Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., former United States Senator for the State of Arkansas.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 593) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF NAVY AIRCRAFT CARRIERS

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 533.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 533) celebrating the centennial of Navy aircraft carriers.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the Kaine amendment to the preamble be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 533) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 5027) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

In the preamble, in the fourth whereas clause, strike "have been the preeminent power projection platform for the Navy and".

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 533

Whereas 100 years ago, on March 20, 1922, following a 2-year conversion at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, the former USS Jupiter (Collier #3) was recommissioned as USS Langley (CV-1), the first aircraft carrier of the Navy;

Whereas USS Langley began as an experimental platform, laying the foundation for the future shipboard operations of aircraft;

Whereas, in fleet exercises beginning in 1924, the USS Langley, appropriately nicknamed the "Covered Wagon", demonstrated the potential of the aircraft carrier as an invaluable weapons system that would transform how the Navy fought at sea;

Whereas, for the past 100 years, aircraft carriers have furthered United States interest in times of war and peace;

Whereas, from the great naval battles in the Pacific Ocean during World War II to strike and close air support missions in the battlegrounds of the Korean Peninsula and Vietnam, the execution of joint force oper-

ations over the sands of the Middle East, and present-day deterrence in numerous locations around the world, aircraft carriers have proven time and again that they invaluable in supporting the strategic goals of the United States;

Whereas, with an unequalled ability to provide warfighting capabilities across the full spectrum of conflict and to adapt in the face of ever-changing threats, aircraft carriers and their embarked air wings and associated strike groups are the foundation of United States maritime strategy;

Whereas aircraft carriers enable the Armed Forces to carry out operations from international waters, often obviating the need to obtain flyover and land-based rights from other countries;

Whereas Nimitz and Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carriers are modern, mobile military bases each complete with an airfield, a hospital, and a hardened communications system from which the United States can strike at enemies, wherever and whenever it chooses;

Whereas there are more than 2,450 companies in 48 States and more than 364 congressional districts and more than 13,100 individuals, who proudly contribute to the construction and maintenance of these complex and technologically advanced ships; and

Whereas countless members of the Armed Forces have served the United States aboard aircraft carriers in war, peace, and times of crisis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that aircraft carriers continue to be a cornerstone of the Navy and play a vital role in the defense of the United States;

(2) acknowledges that, in a time of great power competition that the world has not seen for over 30 years, aircraft carriers will continue to be an absolutely vital strategic platform that the United States can wield to ensure security and stability throughout the world, now and well into the future;

(3) in this 100th year since USS Langley (CV-1) was commissioned at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, recognizes the role aircraft carriers have played in securing peace for the United States and the continuing role aircraft carriers will play in maintaining peace and security for the United States; and

(4) celebrates the centennial of Navy aircraft carriers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 706, 765, 766, 767, and 770; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Jed David Kolko, of California, to be Under

Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs; Arun Venkataraman, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service; Mohsin Raza Syed, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation; Grant T. Harris, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce; and Laurie E. Locascio, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

RUSSIAN LANDMINES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, among the many barbaric atrocities committed by Russian soldiers in Ukraine where civilian infrastructure including hospitals, schools, and apartment buildings have been repeatedly bombed and shelled and countless civilians have been summarily executed in the streets, the New York Times reports today that the Russians are using a new kind of landmine.

This mine, called the POM-3, is inherently indiscriminate like other mines in that it cannot distinguish between a civilian and a combatant, and it is apparently equipped with a sensor that triggers the explosive when a person approaches. With a kill radius of 50 feet, it is even more deadly than a typical anti-personnel mine. And, unlike typical landmines, it cannot be disarmed by a human deminer because anyone who approaches it is likely to become a victim before reaching it. So it will be necessary to use robots to clear these mines, at great additional time and expense. As in other countries affected by armed conflict, it will be many years and almost certainly decades after the fighting ends, before the people of Ukraine can walk safely without fear of mines and other unexploded ordnance.

Human beings seem to have an unlimited capacity to devise new ways of destroying the lives of others. Landmines are especially insidious because they maim or kill whoever comes into contact with them, or, in the case of the POM-3, whosever's footsteps it detects. It could be anyone, including a young child.

No matter how "sophisticated" the technology, mines are an exceedingly primitive weapon because they are designed to be indiscriminate in an age of so-called precision munitions.

Mines are the opposite. While landmines are so easy to make that it will never be possible to completely eliminate them, in 1997, the international community took an historic step,

thanks in large part to the leadership of former Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy and the tireless advocacy of the International Campaign to Ban landmines.

In December of that year, countries came together to sign the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, known informally as the Ottawa Treaty or the Mine Ban Treaty. Today, the treaty has 164 states parties. But one of the reasons anti-personnel mines have yet to be universally stigmatized is because key countries including Russia, China, India, Pakistan, and the United States have not joined the treaty.

Of course, when one country joins a treaty, it does not guarantee that others will. But the more countries that do, the harder it is for others to fail to do so, as they become the outliers, the pariahs. So if the United States, which has not used anti-personnel mines since 1991, were to join the treaty it would not guarantee that Russia would. But it would greatly enhance our credibility to call out their use of mines, their devastating effects on innocent civilians, and the need to universalize the treaty.

In 1994, President Clinton, at the United Nations, called for ridding the world of anti-personnel mines. He also directed the Pentagon to develop alternatives. They never did. While we can drive a robot on Mars 100 million miles away, our own military continues to stockpile landmines that are triggered by the victim. Whether a U.S. soldier or a child, our landmines, like Russian landmines, cannot tell the difference.

If anything good can come of this catastrophic and senseless war in Ukraine, it would be for the international community to bring to justice those responsible for war crimes and for the United States to once and for all renounce the use of anti-personnel landmines. These are not weapons that belong in the arsenals of civilized nations and certainly not in the arsenal of the most powerful, modern military on Earth. Let us be the country that not only denounces their use in Ukraine, but denounces and renounces their use everywhere. What a gift to the world that would be.

I ask unanimous consent that the New York Times article entitled "New Russian Land Mine Poses Special Risk in Ukraine" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The New York Times, April 6, 2022]
NEW RUSSIAN LAND MINE POSES SPECIAL RISK
IN UKRAINE

(By John Ismay)

WASHINGTON—Russian forces in Ukraine appear to be using a new type of weapon as they step up attacks on civilian targets: an advanced land mine equipped with sensors that can detect when people walk nearby.

Ukrainian bomb technicians discovered the device, called the POM-3, last week near the

eastern city of Kharkiv, according to Human Rights Watch, a leading human rights group, which has reviewed photos provided by Ukraine's military.

Older types of land mines typically explode when victims accidentally step on them or disturb attached tripwires. But the POM-3's seismic sensor picks up on approaching footsteps and can effectively distinguish between humans and animals.

Humanitarian deminers and groups that campaign against the use of land mines said the POM-3 would make future efforts to locate and destroy unexploded munitions in Ukraine vastly more complicated and deadlier.

"These create a threat that we don't have a response for," said James Cowan, who leads the HALO Trust, a British American charity that clears land mines and other explosive remnants of war to help countries recover after conflicts. The group began removing unexploded munitions from the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine in 2016, after Russian-backed separatists started fighting the Ukrainian government.

"We'll need to find some donors to procure robotics that can allow us to deal with these threats at some distance," Mr. Cowan added.

The POM-3 is typically launched by a rocket and falls back to earth by parachute before sticking into the ground—where it waits, according to CAT-UXO, an online resource for military and civilian bomb technicians. When the mine senses a person, it launches a small explosive warhead that detonates midair, producing fragments that are lethal up to about 50 feet away.

Mr. Cowan, a retired British Army major general, said his staff of 430 Ukrainians clearing unexploded munitions in Donbas had been unable to continue working since Russia launched a full invasion of the country in late February, with many staff members temporarily relocating in Ukraine. He anticipates that in the future, HALO's operation across the country will require about 2,500 workers, given that many areas outside Donbas are now contaminated with unexploded munitions as well.

U.S. government officials have said Russia appears to be moving troops to consolidate its hold on Donetsk and Luhansk, which could mean that even more weapons like the POM-3 will be used in the war.

"The war is entering a static phase—trenches are being dug," Mr. Cowan said. "This is the time when I would expect the Russians to start using land mines on a massive basis."

HALO, which stands for Hazardous Area Life-Support Organization, has about 10,000 employees around the world and is among the few international nonprofits that have remained in Afghanistan since the Taliban took control of Kabul, the capital, in August. Mr. Cowan said the future cleanup in Ukraine would require roughly the same number of workers as HALO's current operation in Afghanistan, which is recovering from decades of armed conflict.

The POM-3 is just one new hazard among many that his organization expects to encounter, in addition to an untold number of rockets, bombs and artillery shells that failed to detonate on impact. Russia has also attacked Ukrainian arms depots, causing fires and explosions that typically fling hundreds or even thousands of damaged munitions into surrounding areas.

Once widely used around the world, anti-personnel land mines often kill and maim civilians long after hostilities have ceased. Ukraine is one of the 164 nations that have signed a 1997 treaty banning the use of anti-personnel land mines and pledged to purge their stockpiles. The United States and Russia have refused to join it.

The treaty does not prohibit the use of antitank land mines—which typically have a much larger explosive charge and are designed to detonate only when a vehicle drives over or near them—nor does it address improvised explosive devices built to destroy vehicles. Videos posted on social media purport to show both antitank mines and improvised bomb attacks on Russian vehicles in Ukraine.

Russia's use of land mines was among the discussions at an event on Tuesday on Capitol Hill for the United Nations' international mine awareness day, which brought together groups that focus on the issue and lawmakers from Congress's Unexploded Ordnance/Demining Caucus.

"Wars end, they stay," Senator Patrick J. Leahy, Democrat of Vermont, said of land mines and unexploded munitions. "The targets are invariably civilians, and they are in places where you have a limited ability to provide lifesaving medical care."

"Look at what's happening in Ukraine—Russia is placing land mines in people's homes, as well as children's playgrounds and places where people go," Mr. Leahy said. "That's using it as a weapon of terror."

CONFIRMATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come to the floor because today has been a good day for our country. Earlier today, the U.S. Senate voted to confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Not only did this Chamber make history, we also bore witness—in a small but powerful way—to the bending of the moral arc towards justice. We realized the promise of America: the promise that every child—regardless of their skin color, their ethnicity, or the ZIP code they are born into—can rise to their highest station in life. We cemented our fundamental belief that, here in America, if you reach further and aim higher, anything is possible.

I submit to my colleagues that the story of Judge Jackson is the story of our great Nation. Together with her impeccable credentials and evenhanded record, there was simply no reason to oppose the confirmation of such a talented, well-qualified, and fair-minded jurist. It is why I could not have been prouder to cast my vote, a vote on behalf of New Jerseyans everywhere, to elevate her to the highest Court in the land.

Judge Jackson has lived a life in the mold of the great strivers in our history. Her nomination alone was a testament to the progress—often deferred or denied—but nonetheless the progress we have achieved on our 246-year struggle for a more perfect union.

I could not be prouder that we etched it into stone and confirmed her to the Court, proving to women and girls everywhere that, if they work hard and reach for the stars, they too can be one of the nine guardians entrusted by the Constitution to ensure equal justice under law for all people. As we celebrate this historic moment, consider the senior quote ascribed to Judge Jackson in her high school yearbook: "I want to go into law and eventually have a judicial appointment."

As we stand here, after extending her the judicial appointment of all judicial appointments, it may seem predestined. It may have seemed like this day is the culmination of her destiny. But to hear Judge Jackson tell it herself, one realizes that, in fact, none of it was predetermined. None of it was fate. Simply put, it was the brilliance and grit of a young woman from South Florida—and the love of her family who surrounded her—that made this vote possible. As a student at Miami Palmetto Senior High School, Ms. Ketanji Brown was class president, chess club president, and a star on the powerhouse speech and debate team.

Her parents, Ellery and Johnny Brown, were teachers who taught her the value of education as they rose to lead their peers as a principal and chief counsel for Miami-Dade County schools. In addition to public education, her family is steeped in a law enforcement background. Her younger brother worked in undercover drug stings for the Baltimore Police Department. One of her uncles was a detective attached to a sex crimes unit, while another uncle was Miami's chief of police.

And yet it is the experience of seeing a third uncle, her Uncle Thomas, sentenced to life in prison for a nonviolent cocaine offense, that rounds out her early understanding of our criminal justice system. In 2005, Judge Jackson would eventually set in motion a chain of events that ended with President Obama commuting her uncle's sentence. But before that could happen, before she joined major law firms and the Federal public defender's office—before she served as Vice Chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission and as a judge on the Federal bench—she was first a daughter, a sister, and a niece.

And it is there, in the pages of Judge Jackson's story, as a product of public schools who saw our country's justice system up close, where we can find her judgment. It is there where we can find the reasons for my colleague, Senator BOOKER, to declare to her on national television: "You have earned this spot. You are worthy. You are a great American."

So much ink has been spilled about the historic nature of Judge Jackson's nomination and now confirmation. She stood before the Senate as a nominee descendant from slaves who grew up listening to her parents' stories of attending segregated schools, a nominee who was once told by a guidance counselor that she shouldn't set her sights so high when applying to Harvard; a nominee who not only graduated as the second generation in her family to earn a college degree but who silenced naysayers and doubters alike by graduating, with honors, from both Harvard College and Harvard Law School.

Simply put, soon-to-be Justice Jackson belongs on the highest Court in the land. Her confirmation is a milestone in the grand tapestry of our country—not only because she has broken barriers as the first African-American

woman and the first to have served as a public defender, but rather, it is because she is supremely qualified to interpret our Constitution and hear cases on their merit. When she is sworn in, Justice Jackson will have more experience as a trial court judge than any of her colleagues on the Court. In fact, she will be the second Justice ever to have experience at all three levels of our Federal judiciary. The first, a legal trailblazer in her own right, is Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

It is therefore only fitting that, as I have thought about what this day means for our country, I am reminded of the parallels between this historic nomination and the historic nomination for Justice Sotomayor. Back then, in 2009, I said, "when she takes her seat on the United States Supreme Court, we will only need to look at the portrait of the justices to see how far we've come as a nation, who we really are as a people, and what our founders intended us to be."

Those words have never rung more true. A woman who, when the Constitution was written, would have counted in the eyes of the law as three-fifths of her fellow Americans, will now carry out justice for every single citizen who calls this Nation home. In the midst of disgusting attacks, racial dog whistles turned into foghorns, and gross mischaracterizations of her record, Judge Jackson maintained a calm demeanor throughout her nomination with almost superhuman poise.

For my colleagues who opposed her nomination today, yet voted to confirm her to the Sentencing Commission, the district court, and to the appeals court just last year, I leave them to iron out their double standards. But to all who rejoice in what is to come, when Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson will soon place her hand on the Bible and takes her solemn oath of office, I submit the following:

More than ever before, the newest portrait of our nine Supreme Court justices will more clearly reflect who we are as a nation and what we stand for as a fair, just, and hopeful people.

Unlike other nations, those united by a singular history, language, and culture, this nation—our Nation—is united by our diversity. It is evident in our national motto—the one stamped on every coin in our pocket and etched on the ceiling of our Capitol dome, *E pluribus Unum*: out of many one. And it is despite these differences that our country comes together as a vast melting pot, one forged in common values and an ideal of freedom that stands as a beacon to the world.

As Judge Jackson takes her rightful place on the Supreme Court, the full realization of that ideal is closer than it has ever been. I know this for I have lived it—as Judge Jackson has lived it—and I feel it, as so many others in this country have felt it. I stand here, the son of Cuban refugees, the first in my family to attend college, and now, in a nation of 330 million, as one of only 100 Members of the U.S. Senate.

It is indeed possible, my colleagues, to make our ancestors' wildest dreams come true.

And so, in closing, as I reflect on our vote earlier today, I can't help but feel joy for my three granddaughters: Evangelina, Ofelia, and Olivia. Granted, they are still young; my oldest is barely out of pre-K. But each one of them will grow up knowing that, thanks to Justices like Sandra Day O'Connor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, and now Ketanji Brown Jackson, there isn't a single thing they can't accomplish. Let their dreams be our dreams today. Let every child in America look at their parents the way that Judge Jackson's daughter looked at her during her confirmation hearing.

Let there be no barriers to what is possible now that Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson has been confirmed to the Supreme Court.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 863, Erik Kristopher Raven, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of the Navy.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS,
Washington, DC, April 7, 2022.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN 1555, the nomination of David Uhlmann, of Michigan to be Assistant Administrator of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, of the Environmental Protection Agency, having been referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works, the Committee with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

On the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 10 ayes, to 10 noes.

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

THOMAS R. CARPER,
Chair.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

UNITED STATES SENATE, COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS,

Washington, DC, April 7, 2022.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN 1556, the nomination of Carlton Waterhouse, of Virginia, to be Assistant Administrator of Solid Waste, of the Environmental Protection Agency, having been referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works, the Committee with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

On the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed 10 ayes to 10 noes.

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee on Environment and Public Works has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

THOMAS R. CARPER,
Chair.

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, S. Con. Res. 14, the fiscal year 2022 congressional budget resolution, included authority in section 4004 to allow the chairman of the Committee on the Budget to adjust budget aggregates and committee allocations related to program integrity, disaster relief, wildfire suppression, and veterans medical care funding.

H.R. 2471, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, was enacted on March 15, 2022, and designates funding eligible for several of these adjustments. Specifically, the bill provides \$18.9 billion in budget authority for disaster relief, \$2.1 billion in budget authority for program integrity activities to combat waste, fraud, and abuse, and \$2.5 billion in budget authority to fight wildfires. Accordingly, I am adjusting the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations and the spending aggregates upward by these amounts and by the amount of outlays flowing therefrom.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables, which provide details about the adjustment, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REVISIONS TO BUDGET AGGREGATES—BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAYS

(Pursuant to Section 4004 of S. Con. Res. 14, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022)
(\$ in billions)

	2022
Current Spending Aggregates:	
Budget Authority	4,146.077
Outlays	4,500.492
Adjustment:	
Budget Authority	23.516
Outlays	3.046
Revised Aggregates:	
Budget Authority	4,169.593
Outlays	4,503.538

Note: Adjustments reflect H.R. 2471, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022. They exclude \$89 million of disaster outlays from H.R. 5305, the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act. The adjustment for H.R. 5305 was filed on February 8, 2022.

REVISIONS TO THE ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

(Pursuant to Section 4004 of S. Con. Res. 14, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022)
(\$ in billions)

	Current allocation	Adjustments	Revised allocation
General Purpose Discretionary:			
Budget Authority	1,498.483	23.516	1,521.999
Outlays	1,679.766	3.046	1,682.812

Note: Adjustments reflect H.R. 2471, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022. They exclude \$89 million of disaster outlays from H.R. 5305, the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act. The adjustment for H.R. 5305 was filed on February 8, 2022.

DETAIL ON ADJUSTMENTS TO THE ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

(Pursuant to Section 4004 of S. Con. Res. 14, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022)
(\$ in billions)

Detail of adjustments made above	Disaster relief	Program integrity	Wildfire suppression	Total
Financial Services:				
Budget Authority	0.143	0.000	0.000	0.143
Outlays	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110
Homeland Security:				
Budget Authority	18.799	0.000	0.000	18.799
Outlays	0.477	0.000	0.000	0.477
Interior and Environment:				
Budget Authority	0.000	0.000	2.450	2.450
Outlays	0.000	0.000	0.841	0.841
Labor-HHS-E&I:				
Budget Authority	0.000	2.124	0.000	2.124
Outlays	0.000	1.707	0.000	1.707
Total:				
Revised Discretionary Budget Authority	18.942	2.124	2.45	23.516
Revised Discretionary Outlays ..	0.587	1.707	0.841	3.135

Note: Totals reflect H.R. 2471, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 and also include \$89 million of disaster outlays from H.R. 5305, the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act. The adjustment for H.R. 5305 was filed on February 8, 2022.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I am here today to talk about the extraordinary accomplishments of the University of Kansas's men's basketball team. As the Nation saw on Monday night, KU beat the University of North Carolina in the NCAA championship game, doing so in a historic fashion.

The game started strong for the Jayhawks, taking an early 7–0 lead, but after some back and forth, North Carolina seemingly broke the game open, ending the first half on an 18–3 run to go up 15. This deficit proved to be the largest ever overcome in an NCAA championship game. Going into the locker room, one could only imagine the sense of determination running through their minds. To win this game, they literally needed to pull off the biggest comeback in championship history in front of thousands of Kansas schoolchildren who look up to these young men as role models and student-athletes. How would they respond to this adversity?

This question was answered as the referee handed the ball to a Tar Heel player and he looked up to see a Jayhawk in his face. The Jayhawks had a look of champions in their eyes. This game meant too much to everyone back home to give up. They stormed out of the locker room after inspirational words from power forward David

McCormack, who started the half by giving Jayhawk fans back home something to cheer about with an electrifying, signature Jayhawk alley-oop. That play ignited a 20–6 run that brought the Jayhawks within 1 point. In true Kansas fashion, the Jayhawks ramped up their defense and began executing the fundamentals of basketball. Kansans learn in the front driveway and haymounds across the state. The game became a slugfest at that point with KU and North Carolina trading body blows back and forth until McCormack sank one last shot to take the lead with just over a minute left. That shot ultimately sealed this KU team's spot in the history books, brought KU its fourth NCAA national championship, and added to their lead as the winningest basketball program in NCAA history.

For all of us who saw the game, it was clear that this championship lived up to the March Madness hype. Every Kansas basketball fan will remember this team for their ability to share the ball—or as Coach Self says, “to not let the ball stick.” Each game during this tournament seemed to have a different hero, but in this historic championship game, every player was a hero, and everyone's contributions were necessary to win. This Jayhawk team made us all proud to be Kansans and delivered the greatest final game comeback ever.

This group should relish in that fact, and I hope they also understand the enormity of the impact they have made with this title on so many fans, young and old alike. This team gave us hope and entertainment to distract us from a challenging past couple of years. They showed up every day and did their job. With this title, current KU students now have the experience of a lifetime, alumni and fans everywhere are connected forever through this one game, and every little girl and boy across Kansas has learned what hard work, teamwork, and a never-give-up attitude can accomplish.

To the players graduating or heading to the draft, I wish you the best of success and happiness in your future endeavors. To Coach Self and everyone else returning, I look forward to current and future generations of Kansans cheering you on and celebrating the tradition of Kansas Basketball. “Rock Chalk!”

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING RALPH BENNIE “BEN” GRAHAM

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a distinguished lawyer, educator, and loving husband, father, and grandfather, Ralph Bennie “Ben” Graham, Jr. Ben passed away on February 3, 2022. He leaves behind a powerful legacy of public service and dedication to Nevada's criminal justice system and legal community.

A Washington State native, Ben moved to Las Vegas in 1977 and worked

as a prosecutor at the Clark County District Attorney's Office. After 31 years, Ben retired as chief deputy district attorney. Throughout this time, Ben also represented the Nevada District Attorneys' Association, the Nevada Supreme Court, and the Administrative Office of the Courts in the Nevada Legislature. In these roles, he lobbied to improve Nevada's criminal laws and the State's judicial system. Outside the courtroom, Ben taught courses on criminal justice at UNLV's William S. Boyd School of Law and the Community College of Southern Nevada, providing invaluable lessons for our Nation's next generation of lawyers.

Throughout his career, Ben placed a great focus on the well-being of members of Nevada's legal community. In 1986, he cofounded Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers, LCL, a confidential program dedicated to helping members of the Nevada bar recover from substance abuse issues. In large part due to Ben's mentorship, countless attorneys were able to obtain the assistance they needed to heal and move forward in their legal careers. Ben received numerous awards in recognition of his service with the program.

Nevada has benefited immensely from Ben's commitment to the legal profession and community. Earlier this year, Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak recognized Ben's contributions to the State by proclaiming February 17, 2022, as “a day in honor of Ben Graham.” Many in the Nevada Legislature remember Ben for his kindness and generosity, as exemplified through his famous chocolate chip cookies, which he annually gifted to colleagues and friends. Whether it was through his baking skills or charitable efforts, Ben improved the lives of those who knew him in the Silver State.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Ben for his significant impact in Nevada. I celebrate Ben's legacy, and I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Elana; his children; grandchildren; and his family and friends during this difficult time.●

TRIBUTE TO IDAHO PARALYMPIC ATHLETES

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, along with my colleagues Senator Jim Risch and Representative MIKE SIMPSON, we congratulate Idaho-connected athletes Jake Adicoff, Dani Aravich, Jesse Keefe, and Josh Sweeney for their hard work and dedication in representing the United States at the 2022 Winter Paralympic Games. We also congratulate Sam Wood, Jake Adicoff's friend and guide, on his important role in helping to earn three medals.

Jake Adicoff, of Sun Valley, with Sam Wood, earned three medals in Nordic skiing. They were instrumental in earning a gold medal in cross-country skiing for the U.S. 4x2.5-kilometer mixed relay team. They also earned two silver medals: one in long-distance cross-country skiing and one in sprint

cross-country skiing. These were the third Paralympic games for Jake Adicoff, who also won a silver medal in the 2018 Winter Paralympic Games. Jake, now a four-time Paralympic medalist, graduated from Wood River High School before Bowdoin College and earned three medals in cross-country skiing in the 2021 World Championships: gold in middle-distance, silver in sprint, and bronze in long-distance.

Boise native Dani Aravich competed in Nordic skiing in her second Paralympics. She finished eighth in the sprint cross-country, ninth in the middle-distance cross-country, 11th in the middle-distance biathlon, and 13th in the sprint biathlon. Dani graduated from Bishop Kelly High School in Boise, where she competed in cross-country running and track and field, and later she competed in these events at Butler University.

In his Paralympics debut, Jesse Keefe, of Bellevue, competed in multiple Alpine skiing events. He placed ninth in the slalom, 15th in the super combined and giant slalom, and 22nd in downhill. Jesse, an avid outdoorsman who started skiing at age 2 and won his first race at age 3, placed first in the 2021 U.S. National Championships in the giant slalom and slalom and placed third in the super-g.

Retired U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Josh Sweeney, who received a Purple Heart for his service in Afghanistan, competed in Nordic skiing in his second Paralympics. He earned 16th in the long-distance cross-country, 19th in the sprint cross-country, and 24th in the middle-distance cross-country. Josh Sweeney is originally from Arizona and currently a Boise resident. He also earned a gold medal in the Paralympic Winter Games Sochi 2014 on the U.S. sled hockey team. From 2010–2013, he played on the San Antonio Rampage, a club sled hockey team made up entirely of injured military athletes, and he played on the Dallas Stars club team in 2012, helping the Stars earn the 2012 USA Hockey Sled Classic title.

These athletes have pushed themselves remarkably far to compete in their respective events. Their examples of strength and triumph serve to inspire fellow Americans and people around the world. As we share in congratulating them on their achievements, we are reminded of the remarkable work it has taken each of them to reach their goals.●

REMEMBERING BRETT THOMAS BOSS

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize Albert Lea Fire Lieutenant Brett Thomas Boss, who passed away on February 5, 2022, at the age of 38 after a decade-long battle with stage 4 Ewing's Sarcoma.

Brett was born to Karen Boss on November 30, 1983, in Fargo, ND, and was later adopted by Todd Boss in 1992. From a young age, he demonstrated a clear drive to help others. In high

school, he participated in the local Fire Explorers program, which gave him both the skills to save lives in his community and a dedication to public service that guided his entire life.

Brett's 17-year firefighting career was nothing short of extraordinary. As an EMT, a hazmat technician, a fire investigator, and a firefighter instructor, he worked every day to keep the people of Albert Lea safe. Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Laskowske put it best: Brett was a true hero.

Brett's heroism only became clearer following his diagnosis. In the words of his loving family, he "fought cancer like a boss." But Brett didn't just fight for himself; following an alarming string of cancer cases among firefighters in Albert Lea and Austin, he became a fierce advocate for his brothers and sisters in the field. He played a key role in passing State legislation that secured funding for equipment to keep firefighters safe from carcinogens as well as a grant program for firefighters living with cancer or heart disease. In 2018, we held an event together in support of legislation to create a national firefighter cancer registry, and days later, the President signed it into law. Brett also collaborated with the Firefighter Cancer Support Network, a group of firefighters that worked to provide resources, support, and education to first responders in need.

While Brett had a lot to be proud of in his career, he was even prouder of his family. He married his wife Danielle in 2006, and they went on to have two great kids, Jaelyn and Aiden. Brett could often be found cheering them on from the sidelines of sporting events or sharing with them his love of camping and fishing.

While it is hard not to feel like Brett's life was cut short, his legacy as an incredible firefighter, advocate, son, husband, and dad will last forever. He changed lives; he saved lives; and he made the world a better place.●

WEST KENTUCKY VETERAN AND PATRIOT MUSEUM

● Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, stories of the past and the memorabilia and photos that often accompany them serve many important purposes in our culture. They can entertain us and provoke laughter and joy. They can reinforce the values that were important to our parents and grandparents. And they can teach difficult or even painful lessons from our history. The West Kentucky Veteran and Patriot Museum, now celebrating its 10th year, is a place where such stories can be discovered.

Founded by Sandy Hart, whose husband, Ray, served in the U.S. Marine Corps and then went on to serve others as a pastor and foreign missionary, the museum houses an eclectic collection of personal objects, records, photographs, and narrative stories curated by Sandy and displayed in a red brick building in tiny Wickliffe, KY, which is

located on the Mississippi River in far west Kentucky. While most of the donated materials are from servicemembers and their families in the Purchase Region of the Commonwealth, the visitors—the men and women you are likely to encounter when you stop by—are from all 50 States and beyond. Sandy loves to sit and talk to them and hear their stories, memories that are often stirred up as they wander through the displays in the museum.

The vision for the West Kentucky Veteran and Patriot Museum was born when Sandy and others in the community helped organize a convoy of over a dozen buses and 800 people to visit the World War II Memorial here in our Nation's Capital. This outpouring of interest compelled Sandy to create a place that honored our veterans year-round—and not just those who served in the Second World War.

I have visited with Sandy at the museum and watched her at work. She is tireless in her devotion to our veterans and in capturing and memorializing their stories so that we can learn from, laugh with, and be thankful for our men and women in uniform throughout our history.●

RECOGNIZING TOTAL EQUINE SERVICES

● Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize the small business, Total Equine Services of Falmouth, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

The breeding, training, and of course racing of horses is an integral component in the history and culture of our beautiful State. Many refer to Lexington, KY, as the Horse Capital of the World, with their 1,200-acre Kentucky Horse Park in addition to the hundreds of horse farms operating in the area. Moreover, as of 2019, the Kentucky equine industry had an economic impact of \$3.4 billion and supplied 80,000 direct and indirect jobs. Needless to say it is a leading industry in our state. For that reason I am delighted to honor a business so involved in that iconic industry, Total Equine Services, founded by Steve Thomas and his wife Patti Thomas.

When it comes to raising Quarter Horses, Steve Thomas is a seasoned veteran. He and his wife founded Total Equine Services 15 years ago, but he has over 20 years' experience caring for this breed under his belt. Together, they opened the business which initially offered only an arena where one could come and ride horses. They quickly expanded to provide a variety of services ranging from boarding, breeding, and training horses. In addition to that same arena, the Thomas' constructed a Foaling Barn and 16 enclosed stalls where owners can board

their horses. The Thomas' also offer nutrition and feed balancing services as well as a full tack shop where one can satisfy all their riding equipment needs. When it comes to the care and maintenance of horses, Total Equine Services offers a full package.

With parents like Steve and Patti, it is no wonder that their son Jason Thomas grew up with a love for horses. He and his wife Nikki Thomas have joined the team at Total Equine Services. Nikki was a natural addition to the team since, just like her in-laws, she has an extensive background in raising Quarter Horses. Moreover, Nikki is seasoned in training horses in the art of barrel racing and pole bending. Pole bending is a timed event where a rider must direct their horse in a speedy serpentine path around six poles arranged in a line. Meanwhile, barrel racing is an event where the horse and rider must attempt to run a cloverleaf pattern around preset barrels in the fastest time possible. Needless to say, training of this sort requires meticulous repetition and a keen eye for detail, which Nikki gladly brings to the arena. And with all the exercise and activity that their stock see, the Thomas' make sure to keep their horses properly shod, with Jason being a certified farrier, a blacksmith that creates horseshoes, who keeps their fleet equipped with the proper horseshoes they need.

The Thomas' have developed a reputation for covering every need a horse owner or rider might have, but they are also highly regarded for their breeding services. Their current stud horse, Redneck Jettin Down, has not only won several local shows, he has placed at national competitions held through the American Quarter Horse Association. In 2014, Redneck Jettin Down placed fourth at the All American Quarter Horse Congress, placed 6th at the AQHA World show in Jr Pole Bending, and placed fifth at the North American Live Stock Show. It goes without saying that Redneck Jettin Down is an asset to Total Equine Services.

Whether they grew up in the heart of our big cities or in our smallest of towns, every Kentucky citizen has heard about the glamour of Keeneland and Churchill Downs. The equine industry plays an active part of the Kentucky identity, and it is businesses like Total Equine Services that retain the respect and renown of that industry by taking special care of their breeds. Moreover, the Thomas' and families like them play a vital role in our State's economy, as they support commerce within our more rural communities.

Congratulations to Steve, Patti, Jason, and Nikki Thomas and the rest of the team at Total Equine Services. I wish them the best of luck and look forward to watching their continued growth and success in Kentucky.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations, a treaty, and withdrawals, which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3807. An act to amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to increase appropriations to the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5497. An act to authorize humanitarian assistance and civil society support, promote democracy and human rights, and impose targeted sanctions with respect to human rights abuses in Burma, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7276. An act to direct the President to submit to Congress a report on United States Government efforts to collect, analyze, and preserve evidence and information related to war crimes and other atrocities committed during the fullscale Russian invasion of Ukraine since February 24, 2022, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6968) to prohibit the importation of energy products of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 7108) to suspend normal trade relations treatment for the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:27 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 5681. An act to authorize the reclassification of the tactical enforcement officers (commonly known as the "Shadow Wolves") in the Homeland Security Investigations tactical patrol unit operating on the lands of the Tohono O'odham Nation as special agents, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6968. An act to prohibit the importation of energy products of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7108. An act to suspend normal trade relations treatment for the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

At 4:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker appoints the following Members as conferees in the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the bill (H.R. 4521) to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership in engineering biology, and that the following Members be the managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. PALLONE, Mses. ESHOO, SCHAKOWSKY, MATSUI, Mr. TONKO, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Messrs. BUCSHON, CARTER of Georgia, DUNCAN, and CRENSHAW.

From the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. MEEKS, DEUTCH, Ms. BASS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mses. HOULAHAN, JACOBS of California, Messrs. KINZINGER, MCCAUL, CHABOT, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, and Mrs. KIM of California.

From the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mses. JOHNSON of Texas, LOFGREN, BONAMICI, Mr. BERA, Ms. STEVENS, Messrs. BOWMAN, FOSTER, LUCAS, WEBER of Texas, BABIN, WALTZ, and GARCIA of California.

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. NEAL, BLUMENAUER, DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mses. DELBENE, CHU, Messrs. KILDEE, GOMEZ, BRADY, BUCHANAN, SMITH of Nebraska, LAHOOD, and Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.

From the Committee on Agriculture, for consideration of sec. 10407, title XV of division H, and division P of the House bill, and secs. 2217, 2507, and 2511 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of secs. 10001, 20221, 71104, and 80401 of the House bill, and secs. 1002, 2118, 2217, 2402, 2507, and subtitle C of title I of division D of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. ESCOBAR, and Mr. MOORE of Utah.

From the Committee on Education and Labor, for consideration of sec. 71210, titles XIII and XIV of division H, and titles I–V and titles VII–IX of division J of the House bill, and secs. 2507, 2509, 3138, subtitle C of title I of division D, and subtitles Band C of title I of division F of the Senate amendment,

and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. SCOTT of Virginia, MORELLE, and Ms. FOX.

From the Committee on Financial Services, for consideration of secs. 10001, 30299C, division G, secs. 110001, and 110004 of the House bill, and secs. 1002, 2508, 3138, 3219D, 3219E, 3250, 3405, 5103, 5202–04, and 5212 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mses. WATERS, GARCIA of Texas, and Mr. BARR.

From the Committee on Homeland Security, for consideration of division F of the House bill, and subtitle C of title I of division D, secs. 4203, 4204, 4207, and subtitle B of title II of division D of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Ms. TITUS, Mrs. DEMINGS, and Mr. GUEST.

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of secs. 30001, 30303, 30306, 30312, 30318, 61403, 61411, 61414, 71102, 80102, 80103, titles II–VI of division I, and sec. 90104 of the House bill, and secs. 3302, 3303, 3313, 4492, 4494–96, 5202–04, and title II of division F of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. NADLER, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. TIFANY.

From the Committee on Natural Resources, for consideration of secs. 70101, 70102, 70111–18, subtitle B of title I of division H, titles II–XII of division H, and titles XV–XIX of division H of the House bill, and secs. 2507 and 2518 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. GRIJALVA, MCEACHIN, and Ms. HERRELL.

From the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for consideration of division E and division Q of the House bill, and title I of division D, subtitle A of title II of division D, title III of division D, subtitles A and B of title IV of division D, secs. 4493, 5202–4, and 73003 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Messrs. KHANNA, and COMER.

From the Committee on Small Business, for consideration of secs. 10691, 50107, 71208, and division R of the House bill, and modifications committed to conference: Mses. VELÁZQUEZ, DAVIDS of Kansas, and Mr. FITZGERALD.

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of sec. 70121, subtitle C of title I of division H, division L, and division S of the House bill, and secs. 2507, 4114, and 4116 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. DEFazio, MALINOWSKI, and CRAWFORD.

From the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for consideration of subtitle C of title I of division D of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. TAKANO, PAPPAS, and BOST.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5497. An act to authorize humanitarian assistance and civil society support, promote democracy and human rights, and impose targeted sanctions with respect to human rights abuses in Burma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 7276. An act to direct the President to submit to Congress a report on United States Government efforts to collect, analyze, and preserve evidence and information related to war crimes and any other atrocities committed during the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine since February 24, 2022, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 4022. A bill to codify in statute the CDC title 42 expulsion order, which suspends the right for certain aliens to enter the United States land borders, until February 1, 2025.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3694. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "COVID-19 Relief Under section 47" (Notice 2020-58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 30, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3695. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Relief for Tax payers Affected by Ongoing Coronavirus Disease Pandemic, Related to Sport Fishing Equipment and Bows and Arrows Excise Tax Filing and Payment Deadlines" (Notice 2020-55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 30, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3696. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revenue Procedure: Telephonic Hearings guidance" (Rev. Proc. 2022-20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 30, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3697. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2022 Calendar Year Resident Population Figures" (Notice 2022-12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 30, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3698. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Temporary Suspension of IRS Prototype IRA Opinion Letter Program" (Announcement 2022-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 30, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3699. A communication from the Director of the Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmit-

ting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Emergency Import Restrictions Imposed on Archaeological and Ethnological Material of Nigeria" (RIN1515-AE71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 30, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3700. A communication from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to the Defense Articles and Services authorized and furnished to foreign countries and international organizations under FMS, Chapter 2, Arms Export Control Act (OSS-2022-0295); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3701. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to provide assistance to Ukraine, including for self-defense and border security operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3702. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Determination Under Sections 506(a)(1) and 614(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3703. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Consolidation and Restructuring of Purposes and Definitions" (RIN1400-AE27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 30, 2022; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3704. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedule of Fees for Consular Services - Elimination of the 'Return Check Processing Fee'" (RIN1400-AF48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 30, 2022; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3705. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed amendment for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services to the Republic of Korea in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 21-081); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3706. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services to Israel in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 21-078); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3707. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed transfer of major defense equipment, with a sales value of approximately \$1,301,145,843 (Transmittal No. RSAT-21-8399); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3708. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed transfer of major defense equipment, with a sales value

of approximately \$1,301,145,843 (Transmittal No. RSAT-21-8400); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3709. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procedures for Credible Fear Screening and Consideration of Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and CAT Protection Claims by Asylum Officers" ((RIN1615-AC67) (RIN1125-AB20)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3710. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of the Emergency Stopgap USCIS Stabilization Act" (RIN1615-AB81) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 4, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE—TREATY

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Treaty Doc. 112-8: Tax Convention with Chile (Ex. Rept. 117-1)

The text of the committee-recommended resolution of advice and consent to ratification is as follows:

Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to Reservations and a Declaration

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Chile for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed at Washington February 4, 2010, with a Protocol signed the same day, as corrected by exchanges of notes effected February 25, 2011, and February 10 and 21, 2012, and a related agreement effected by exchange of notes on February 4, 2010 (the "Convention") (Treaty Doc. 112-8), subject to the reservations of section 2 and the declaration of section 3.

Section 2. Reservations

The advice and consent of the Senate under Section 1 is subject to the following reservations, which shall be included in the instrument of ratification:

(1) Nothing in the Convention shall be construed as preventing the United States from imposing a tax under section 59A, entitled the "Tax on Base Erosion Payments of Taxpayers with Substantial Gross Receipts," of the Internal Revenue Code (as it may be amended from time to time) on a company that is a resident of the United States or the profits of a company that is a resident of Chile that are attributable to a permanent establishment in the United States.

(2) Paragraph 1 of Article 23 (Relief from Double Taxation) of the Convention shall be deleted and replaced by the following:

1. In accordance with the provisions and subject to the limitations of the law of the United States (as it may be amended from time to time without changing the general principle thereof):

a) the United States shall allow to a resident or citizen of the United States as a credit against the United States tax on income applicable to residents and citizens the income tax paid or accrued to Chile by or on

behalf of such citizen or resident. For the purposes of this subparagraph, the taxes referred to in subparagraph b) of paragraph 3 and paragraph 4 of Article 2 (Taxes Covered), excluding taxes on capital, shall be considered income taxes; and

b) in the case of a United States company owning at least 10 percent of the aggregate vote or value of the shares of a company that is a resident of Chile and from which the United States company receives dividends, the United States shall allow a deduction in the amount of such dividends in computing the taxable income of the United States company."

Section 3. Declaration

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration:

The Convention is self-executing.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 4023. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish Lifelong Learning and Training Account programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 4024. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exemption from the retirement plan early withdrawal penalty for public safety officers to State and local government corrections employees; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4025. A bill to require additional disclosures with respect to nominees to serve as chiefs of missions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 4026. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to grant eligible researchers access to eligible products at a discounted price for qualified research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 4027. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide flexibility for temporary and term appointments in the competitive service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 4028. A bill to require certain public housing agencies to absorb port-in housing choice vouchers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. DAINES, Mr. THUNE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 4029. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to define "State of residence" and "resident", and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. SMITH,

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 4030. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish a cattle contract library, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 4031. A bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Henrietta Lacks, in recognition of her immortal cells which have made invaluable contributions to global health, scientific research, our quality of life, and patients' rights; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 4032. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 East Oak Avenue in Seminole, Oklahoma, as the "Sergeant Bret D. Isenhower Memorial Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 4033. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to incentivize investment in facilities that carry out the metallurgy of rare earth elements and the production of finished rare earth products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 4034. A bill to provide authorization for nonpecuniary damages in an action resulting from a cruise ship voyage occurring on the high seas; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 4035. A bill to require the placement of Taiwan in Country Group A:5 for purposes of the strategic trade authorization license exception under the Export Administration Regulations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. TESTER, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4036. A bill to establish a procedure for terminating a determination by Surgeon General to suspend certain entries and imports from designated places; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 4037. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the transparency of pharmaceutical research costs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 4038. A bill to increase the production and use of renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 4039. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide guidance to States regarding Federal reimbursement for furnishing behavioral health services and treatment under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program using telehealth services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 4040. A bill to amend subtitle IV of title 46, United States Code, with respect to ship agents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 4041. A bill to promote environmental literacy; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 4042. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare coverage for all physicians' services furnished by doctors of chiropractic within the scope of their license, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HASSAN, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 4043. A bill to instruct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue regulations regarding over-the-counter hearing aids; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 4044. A bill to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to require the President to automatically waive certain critical document fees for individuals and households affected by major disasters for which assistance is provided under the Individuals and Households Program; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 4045. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to establish a pilot program to provide flight training services to veterans; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. 4046. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to remove the restriction on the use of Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery funds, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to codify the Trump administration rule on reporting requirements of exempt organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 4047. A bill to improve the removal of lead from drinking water in public housing; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 4048. A bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to conduct a study on conduct related to oil and gas prices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 4049. A bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to investigate and report on practices in the oil and gas industry; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 4050. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate a provision under the Medicare Advantage program that inadvertently penalizes Medicare Advantage plans for providing high quality care to Medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 4051. A bill to require an annual report on United States portfolio investments in the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 4052. A bill to reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 4053. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to grant eligible researchers access to eligible products at a discounted price for qualified research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 4054. A bill to terminate General License No. 8A of the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury and require the application of sanctions under Executive Order 14024 to the Russian financial institutions listed in General License No. 8A; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 4055. A bill to establish a task force for regulatory oversight and review; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 4056. A bill to promote youth athletic safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. BURR, and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 4057. A bill to develop a comprehensive, strategic plan for Federal electric vehicle fleet battery management, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KING:

S. 4058. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to establish a grant program to be known as the Mental Health Licensure Portability Program to award grants to eligible entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 4059. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to replace equipment provided to Ukraine by certain member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 4060. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for inflation rebates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 4061. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to modify the definition of water heater under energy conservation standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. ROMNEY, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 4062. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to au-

thorize the sale of certain Federal land to States and units of local government to address housing shortages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. LEE):

S. 4063. A bill to prohibit the President from negotiating or concluding any withdrawal, suspension, waiver, or modification to the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights without explicit authorization from Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 4064. A bill to facilitate the development of a whole-of-government strategy for nuclear cooperation and nuclear exports; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. WARNER, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 4065. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to qualified opportunity zones, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BARRASSO:

S. 4066. A bill to amend the Energy Act of 2020 to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to accelerate the availability of commercially produced high-assay, low-enriched uranium in the United States and to make high-assay, low-enriched uranium produced from Department of Energy inventories available for use in advanced nuclear reactors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 4067. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to improve access to care for all Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries through models tested under the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 4068. A bill to promote and support collaboration between Hispanic-serving institutions and local educational agencies with high enrollments of Hispanic or Latino students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LANKFORD:

S. 4069. A bill to amend the National Firearms Act to provide an exception for stabilizing braces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 4070. A bill to designate the National Air Grant Fellowship Program as the "Samya Rose Stumo National Air Grant Fellowship Program"; considered and passed.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 4071. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve the treatment of rare diseases and conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 4072. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to empower the States to set the maximum annual percentage rates applicable to consumer credit transactions, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 4073. A bill to support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other ethnic groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and safeguard their district civilization and identity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 4074. A bill to prevent future pandemics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 4075. A bill to prevent money laundering, the financing of terrorism, or other forms of illicit finance through United States real estate and vehicle transactions, including by Russian oligarchs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 584. A resolution congratulating Miss Emma Broyles of Alaska for being crowned Miss America 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. KAINE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 585. A resolution honoring the life, achievements, and legacy of the Honorable Madeleine K. Albright; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARPER:

S. Res. 586. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of April 4 through April 8, 2022, as National Assistant Principals Week; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 587. A resolution honoring the memory of Jereima "Jeri" Bustamante on the fourth anniversary of her passing; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. SCOTT

of South Carolina, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. Res. 588. A resolution designating April 2022 as "Financial Literacy Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. WARREN,

Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. Res. 589. A resolution recognizing, honoring, and commending the women of Ukraine who have contributed to the fight for freedom and the defense of Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. Res. 590. A resolution recognizing the designation of the week of April 11 through April 17, 2022, as the fifth annual “Black Maternal Health Week” to bring national attention to the maternal health crisis in the United States and the importance of reducing maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women and birthing persons; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. Res. 591. A resolution expressing support for the designation of April 10, 2022 as “Venture Smith Freedom Day”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. Res. 592. A resolution designating April 6, 2022, as “National Assistive Technology Awareness Day”; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 593. A resolution relating to the death of Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., former United States Senator for the State of Arkansas; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 445

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 445, a bill to amend section 303(g) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(g)) to eliminate the separate registration requirement for dispensing narcotic drugs in schedule III, IV, or V, such as buprenorphine, for maintenance or detoxification treatment, and for other purposes.

S. 642

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 642, a bill to protect the rights of passengers with disabilities in air transportation, and for other purposes.

S. 663

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 663, a bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library, in accordance with section 1831 of the Revised Statutes, to accept a statue depicting Harriet Tubman from the Harriet Tubman Statue Commission of Maryland and display the statue in a prominent location in the Capitol.

S. 791

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 791, a bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to direct the Administrator of General Services to incorporate practices and strategies to reduce bird fatalities resulting from collisions with certain public buildings, and for other purposes.

S. 1116

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1116, a bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any of certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employees duty, and for other purposes.

S. 1291

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1291, a bill to provide for a standard record of service on active duty for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 1408

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1408, a bill to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recogni-

tion of their contributions to the Nation.

S. 1489

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1489, a bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to establish an Inspector General of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and for other purposes.

S. 1814

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1814, a bill to authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 1873

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1873, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 1945

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1945, a bill to provide for the long-term improvement of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and for other purposes.

S. 2202

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2202, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income interest received on certain loans secured by agricultural real property.

S. 2408

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2408, a bill to prohibit the award of Federal funds to an institution of higher education that hosts or is affiliated with a student-based service site that provides abortion drugs or abortions to students of the institution or to employees of the institution or site, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2408, *supra*.

S. 2512

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2512, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices and judges of the courts of the United States.

S. 2736

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 2736, a bill to exclude vehicles to be used solely for competition from certain provisions of the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2874

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2874, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income payments under the Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program and certain amounts received under the Indian Health Professions Scholarships Program.

S. 3350

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3350, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to condition an institution of higher education's receipt of Federal assistance on waiving the application for enrollment fee for homeless children and youths and students who were in foster care at any time when the students were 13 years of age or older.

S. 3361

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3361, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to modify the definition of franchise fee, and for other purposes.

S. 3483

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3483, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend increased dependency and indemnity compensation paid to surviving spouses of veterans who die from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, regardless of how long the veterans had such disease prior to death, and for other purposes.

S. 3508

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3508, a bill to posthumously award a congressional gold medal to Constance Baker Motley.

S. 3678

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3678, a bill to authorize the National Detector Dog Training Center, and for other purposes.

S. 3693

At the request of Mr. HICKENLOOPER, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3693, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to continue to implement endangered fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins, and for other purposes.

S. 3860

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3860, a bill to establish a grant program to provide assistance to local governments with fewer than 200 law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 3881

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3881, a bill to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out teacher leadership programs, and for other purposes.

S. 3889

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3889, a bill to reform the labor laws of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3903

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3903, a bill to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish procedures for conducting maintenance projects at ports of entry at which the Office of Field Operations conducts certain enforcement and facilitation activities.

S. 3915

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3915, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, and for other purposes.

S. 3920

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3920, a bill to protect consumers from price-gouging of gasoline and other fuels, and for other purposes.

S. 3975

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3975, a bill to reauthorize the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

S. 3987

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 3987, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to provide grants and loan guarantees for commercial-scale implementation of transformative industrial technologies, and for other purposes.

S. 3996

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Wyoming

(Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 3996, a bill to provide for a method by which the economic costs of significant regulatory actions may be offset by the repeal of other regulatory actions, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 529

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 529, a resolution supporting a democratic, pluralistic, and prosperous Bosnia and Herzegovina on the 30th Anniversary of its declaration of independence.

S. RES. 581

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 581, a resolution supporting the designation of the week of April 24 through April 30, 2022, as "National Crime Victims' Rights Week".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4025. A bill to require additional disclosures with respect to nominees to serve as chiefs of missions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, the United States places special trust and confidence in the integrity, judgement, and abilities of those men and women chosen to represent the United States abroad as an Ambassador. The Constitution balances the President's need to have officials overseas able to execute U.S. foreign policy as directed by the President, with Congress' interest in ensuring that these officials will serve honorably and ably in the positions for which they are nominated. Apart from the Foreign Service Act of 1980, the Ambassador nomination process has changed very little since our Nation was founded. However, it is fair to say that Presidents of all parties have on occasion appointed individuals Ambassadors whose profiles indicate political closeness with the President more than deep substantive experience in a particular foreign country.

Historically, the majority of Ambassadors are selected from the career ranks of the State Department. Roughly 30 percent of Ambassadors are typically selected outside of those ranks, including from among political supporters of the President. This is not categorically problematic—Ambassadors who are not professional diplomats have long served our country admirably, from Benjamin Franklin in France to former Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield in Japan. A foreign country may benefit from having a U.S. Ambassador who has a close relationship with the President and the

ability to elevate issues to the highest levels or the independent gravitas to bring substantial public attention to that country's needs. That said, I do believe it is appropriate to ask Presidents and their Secretaries of State to explain their rationale for choosing Ambassador nominees outside of the Foreign and Civil Services so that the public can understand the rationale for these appointments. This would give both the U.S. public and foreign publics the assurance that the White House is not merely doling out political sinecures but is devoting meaningful thought to these selections.

The legislation I am introducing today with Senator BOOKER would not constrain the President's discretion to choose appointees but would require him or her to justify these selections and explain to Congress why someone from outside the State Department is the optimal choice to represent America's interests abroad. I am proud to introduce this bill to ensure that U.S. foreign policy and our national security interests are advanced by the most qualified Americans, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that this legislation is swiftly considered by the Senate.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 4039. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide guidance to States regarding Federal reimbursement for furnishing behavioral health services and treatment under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program using telehealth services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4039

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Medicaid Ensuring Necessary Telehealth is Available Long-term Health for Kids and Underserved Act" or the "MENTAL Health for Kids and Underserved Act".

SEC. 2. GUIDANCE TO STATES ON FURNISHING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES VIA TELEHEALTH UNDER MEDICAID AND CHIP.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, shall issue guidance to States on the following:

(1) State options for Federal reimbursement of expenditures under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program for furnishing clinically appropriate services and treatment for behavioral health needs, including assessment, counseling, and medication management, using telehealth services. Such options shall include, to the extent appropriate, options for States to receive Federal reimbursement for such expenditures without the need for approval of a State plan

amendment or waiver. Such guidance shall also include guidance on furnishing services and treatments that address the needs of high-risk individuals, including racial and ethnic minorities, such as American Indians and Alaska Natives.

(2) State options for Federal reimbursement of expenditures under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program for furnishing clinically appropriate behavioral health services and treatment to school-aged youth and teens enrolled in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program using telehealth services. Such options shall include, to the extent appropriate, options for States to receive Federal reimbursement for such expenditures without the need for approval of a State plan amendment or waiver.

(3) Best practices for integrating clinically appropriate behavioral health provided via telehealth services covered by a State plan for medical assistance under title XIX of the Social Security Act (or a waiver of such a plan) or a State plan for child health assistance under title XXI of such Act (or a waiver of such a plan) into school-based settings, including full-service community schools. Such best practices shall include resources and information specifically for educators and other school-based staff on how to recognize signs of distress in high-risk students and make appropriate referrals for school-based behavioral health services.

(4) Best practices for evaluating how utilizing clinically appropriate telehealth services for behavioral health services and treatment affects outcomes, as well as costs.

(5) Best practices for monitoring fraud, waste, and abuse that may occur during behavioral health services furnished through telehealth services covered under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES UNDER MEDICAID AND CHIP.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the impact of telehealth on access, cost, and quality of behavioral health services offered to beneficiaries under the Medicaid program and the Children's Health Insurance Program, including specific information on the impact of telehealth on access to and the quality of behavioral health services in schools.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 4040. A bill to amend subtitle IV of title 46, United States Code, with respect to ship agents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Ship Agent Licensure Act along with my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE. This legislation seeks to improve supply chain efficiencies and port safety and security by creating a Federal standard and licensure for independent ship agent companies, just as we already do for transportation intermediaries like Freight Forwarders and Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers, NVOCCs.

Ship agents are one of the most important yet least understood stakeholders in the international marine trade supply chain, but in the United States, there is no Federal licensing for these essential players.

A ship agent can best be understood as the general contractor of the port call, tasked by ship owners and charterers with managing thousands of vendors to ensure a safe, secure, and cost efficient port call. This includes coordinating critical Federal Government clearances and inspections for Agencies that include the Coast Guard, Customs and Border Protection, the EPA, USDA, and others. Government officials rely on ship agents to fulfill their critical role of facilitating commerce, and protecting life, property, and the environment. More than any other stakeholder, the ship agent facilitates efficiencies at the Nation's ports of entry, the frontline of the supply chain.

While the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has established minimum international standards for ship agent competency, quality, and fiduciary responsibility, there is no requirement for independent ship agent companies to abide by these, or any set of standards in the United States. Many domestic independent ship agent companies voluntarily certify through third-party accreditation associations in accordance with these international standards, but not all do. When ship agents are not properly trained and do not carry the appropriate bond and insurance, it creates delays and inefficiencies during vessel calls, jeopardizes port entry and clearance, and increases risk for Federal Agencies.

That is why it is critical to require Federal licensing for independent ship agent companies. Indeed, such a licensing requirement represents a unique opportunity for the United States to adopt its own uniform nationwide standards, consistent with the existing international standards, to ensure that ship agents have the knowledge, experience, and skills needed to manage these high stakes vessel calls and help our government agencies fulfill their responsibilities.

I urge our colleagues to join us in supporting this commonsense legislation.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 4041. A bill to promote environmental literacy; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today, I am introducing bipartisan, bicameral legislation with Senator COLLINS and Senator MERKLEY and Congressman SARBANES that targets the fundamental goal of public education, which is to equip the next generation with the knowledge, skills, and experiences to understand the world around them and their ability to shape it. In the face of a global climate crisis, it is essential that all students graduate with environmental literacy skills to secure and sustain their future. The No Child Left Inside Act will ensure that our students will have the opportunity to develop environmental literacy.

Environmental education provides broad benefits. It has been shown to enhance student achievement in science and other core subjects and to increase student engagement and critical thinking skills. Moreover, it promotes healthy lifestyles by encouraging kids to get outside.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us just how vital understanding the environment is to our own health, well-being, and ability to carry out our daily activities. As the pandemic took hold, Rhode Island's environmental educators sprung into action, creating outdoor learning support opportunities and virtual programs for students as they did school from home. We need this to work on a national level for all students.

The No Child Left Inside Act authorizes \$150 million annually to support States in the development and implementation of environmental literacy plans to integrate environmental education and field experiences into the core academic program in public schools, with an emphasis on professional development in environmental education for teachers. With this funding, States will provide grants for partnerships between school districts and parks, natural resource management agencies, educator preparation programs, museums or other organizations with expertise in engaging young people with real world examples of environmental and scientific concepts. The legislation also establishes a pilot program for outdoor school education programs that offer intensive, hands-on learning experiences, such as residential programs and summer camps.

The No Child Left Inside Act will also help coordinate the Federal efforts on environmental education. It requires the Secretary of Education to establish environmental literacy advisory panel to coordinate and report on environmental literacy activities across Federal Agencies. It also will prove easy access to environmental education resources through the Department of Education's website.

The No Child Left Inside Act has the support of nearly 100 organizations, representing educators, parks, museums, environmental organizations, and community-based organizations at the national, State, and local levels. They stand ready and willing to partner with schools across the Nation. The Federal Government should be a partner too. That is why I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the No Child Left Inside Act.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 4060. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for inflation rebates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Food and Fuel Family Savings Act, FFFSA, along with Senator WHITEHOUSE, Senator FEINSTEIN,

and Senator MERKLEY. Price increases, particularly for basic necessities like food and gas, are weakening household buying power and cutting family budgets across the country. Americans are struggling, and it is critically important that we both address the long-term factors driving inflation and support the millions of families facing higher prices right now. That is why we are introducing this legislation, which would provide eligible individuals and families with debit cards to cover higher food and fuel prices in the short term and help tame inflation in the medium and long term.

A number of factors are driving our current bout of inflation. Pandemic-driven supply chain snarls, a surge and shift in demand towards goods, and corporate consolidation have created an imbalance between supply and demand. Energy prices have risen particularly quickly, as OPEC limits output and oil companies refuse to invest in domestic production to meet growing demand. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has also decreased global oil, fertilizer, and wheat supplies, moving prices higher for food and energy. These wide-ranging pressures pushed the Consumer Price Index up 7.9 percent in February—its fastest increase in 40 years.

Hard-working Americans are not at fault for these global price pressures. Yet, these households, which often put a large share of their income towards basic necessities, are being forced to bear the burden of higher costs. Indeed, U.S. grocery prices rose 8.6 percent in February, the largest annual increase in over 40 years, and U.S. gas prices were up a whopping 38 percent. While the wealthiest Americans can afford more expensive everyday goods, higher prices erode working families' buying power and can force them to delay or reduce critically needed purchases. We need to help them.

Our bill would take the burden off the shoulders of working Americans by providing targeted relief to low- and moderate-income individuals and families. It would provide eligible households with debit cards loaded with \$600 per family member that work exclusively at grocery stores and gas pumps. The average American household would receive \$1,500. Using estimates from Bloomberg economists, this payment should cover the additional \$183 the average family will spend each month on food and fuel for the rest of 2022. In other words, our legislation would ensure households can put food on the table and gas in the car this year.

Importantly, this fiscally responsible legislation is fully paid for. In fact, offsets would pay for the cost of the debit cards and slash the deficit by hundreds of billions of dollars. More than that, it would tamp down inflation in the medium and long term. Indeed, this bill would help families weather today's inflation while cooling price increases in the years ahead.

Congress must continue working on other measures to foster a stronger,

more resilient postpandemic economy. Our legislation would aid these long-term efforts while providing Americans the financial help they need right now.

I urge our colleagues to join us in supporting this important legislation.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 4068. A bill to promote and support collaboration between Hispanic-serving institutions and local educational agencies with high enrollments of Hispanic or Latino students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the Hispanic Educational Resources and Empowerment Act of 2022, which I introduced today.

Hispanic-serving institutions provide incredible opportunities for millions of low-income and first-generation students. I am proud that my State of California is home to 174 HSIs and 51 emerging HSIs, the most in the country. That is why I launched the first-ever Senate HSI Caucus with my colleague, Senator Menendez—to spotlight and advocate for the 559 HSIs across our country. These critical institutions educate our future leaders and help to build a more diverse and inclusive workforce.

Over the last 2 years, the number of HSIs in our country declined for the first time in two decades. A decrease in higher education enrollment among Latino students during the COVID-19 pandemic has led to the decrease in the number of HSIs, illustrating the need to invest in Latino youth. That is why I am introducing the HERE Act.

If enacted, this bill would support Latino students throughout secondary and postsecondary education. Specifically, the HERE Act would provide \$150 million for grants to create partnerships between HSIs and K-12 school districts that serve large populations of Latino students.

Schools could use this funding to provide academic support that better prepares students for postsecondary education. They could create new programs to foster a college-going culture by exposing students and their families to postsecondary opportunities. And they could better support students through the college application and transition process. Additionally, schools could use grants to address non-academic needs that serve as barriers to college enrollment and completion—such as childcare, food insecurity, financial hardship, and more.

Latinos are the largest, youngest, and second fastest growing minority population in the United States. While making up 18 percent of our country's population, Latinos comprise 26 percent of prekindergarten through grade 12 enrollment. Latino students are going to college more than ever before,

but they still face lower educational outcomes, including lower grades, lower scores on standardized tests, and higher dropout rates.

As a Senator representing one of the most diverse States in the country, I am proud to work with my leagues to ensure the American dream is a reality for every student.

I want to thank Congressman JOAQUIN CASTRO for introducing this bill with me, and I hope our colleagues will join us in support of this effort to empower Latino youth.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 584—CONGRATULATING MISS EMMA BROYLES OF ALASKA FOR BEING CROWNED MISS AMERICA 2022

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 584

Whereas Emma Broyles was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska, and graduated from Service High School in 2019;

Whereas Miss Broyles, an honors student and a biomedical sciences major at Arizona State University, plans to attend medical school and become a dermatologist;

Whereas Miss Broyles, who has excelled at a wide range of musical activities from an early age, is pursuing a minor in voice performance;

Whereas Miss Broyles applied her exceptional talents in the Miss Alaska 2021 competition;

Whereas Miss Broyles was crowned Miss Alaska on June 17, 2021;

Whereas Miss Broyles, as Miss Alaska, participated in the 100th Anniversary Miss America Competition (referred to in this preamble as the "Competition") alongside 50 outstanding young women from across the country;

Whereas Miss Broyles was inspired by her older brother to choose "Building Community through the Special Olympics" as the theme of her social impact initiative;

Whereas, during the talent segment of the Competition, Miss Broyles sang "Let Me Be Your Star" from the television show "Smash";

Whereas, throughout the Competition, Miss Broyles spoke openly and courageously about her struggles with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and dermatillomania;

Whereas Miss Broyles was crowned Miss America 2022 on December 16, 2021;

Whereas Miss Broyles is the first Alaskan to be crowned Miss America in the 100-year history of the Competition;

Whereas Miss Broyles is the first Korean-American to be crowned Miss America; and

Whereas Alaskans take great pride in Miss Broyles' victory: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Miss Emma Broyles of Alaska for being crowned Miss America 2022;

(2) celebrates historic achievement of Miss Broyles as the first Alaskan and first Korean-American to be crowned Miss America; and

(3) commends Miss Broyles for inspiring young people and serving as a positive role model for millions of individuals in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 585—HONORING THE LIFE, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. KAINE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 585

Whereas, on May 15, 1937, the Honorable Madeleine K. Albright was born in Prague to Josef Korbel, a Czechoslovak diplomat, and his wife Anna;

Whereas Albright and her family were forced to flee to Britain in 1939, due to the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia;

Whereas Albright and her family returned to Prague after the war, only to be forced to flee again in 1948, due to her father's opposition to communism;

Whereas Albright and her family moved to the United States as refugees seeking political asylum, and Albright became a naturalized United States citizen in 1957;

Whereas Albright attended Wellesley College to study political science on a full scholarship and graduated with honors;

Whereas Albright earned a certificate in Russian, a Master of Arts degree, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Columbia University while raising 3 children;

Whereas, in 1982, Albright was appointed to the position of Research Professor of International Affairs at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and to the position of Director of the Women in Foreign Service Program at the university;

Whereas, in 1993, President Clinton appointed Albright Ambassador to the United Nations, where she represented the interests of the United States on the world stage and pushed for multilateral cooperation to confront atrocities, playing a vital role in the involvement by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (referred to in this preamble as "NATO") to prevent further atrocities and ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia;

Whereas, in 1997, Albright was nominated for the position of Secretary of State and was unanimously confirmed by the Senate, becoming the first woman to serve as Secretary of State;

Whereas, during her time as Secretary of State, Albright championed democracy and human rights around the world, galvanized the international community to prevent war crimes in Kosovo through NATO intervention, and advocated for NATO to accept Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic as members of NATO;

Whereas, upon returning to private life in 2001, Albright became a best-selling author and successful businessperson, led the boards of a number of organizations, and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom; and

Whereas, throughout her life, Albright passionately advocated for human rights, including those of women and refugees, while remaining actively involved in civil society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life, achievements, and legacy of the Honorable Madeleine K. Albright;

(2) commends to future generations Albright's example as a patriot and public servant in the pursuit of a more peaceful, prosperous, and cooperative world order; and

(3) extends its deepest condolences and sympathy to the family and friends of the Honorable Madeleine K. Albright.

SENATE RESOLUTION 586—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 4 THROUGH APRIL 8, 2022, AS NATIONAL ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS WEEK

Mr. CARPER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 586

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals (referred to in this preamble as "NASSP"), the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the American Federation of School Administrators have designated the week of April 4 through April 8, 2022, as "National Assistant Principals Week";

Whereas an assistant principal, as a member of the school administration, interacts with many sectors of the school community, including support staff, instructional staff, students, and parents;

Whereas assistant principals are responsible for establishing a positive learning environment and building strong relationships between school and community;

Whereas assistant principals play a pivotal role in the instructional leadership of their schools by supervising student instruction, mentoring teachers, recognizing the achievements of staff, encouraging collaboration among staff, ensuring the implementation of best practices, monitoring student achievement and progress, facilitating and modeling data-driven decision making to inform instruction, and guiding the direction of targeted intervention and school improvement;

Whereas the day-to-day logistical operations of schools require assistant principals to monitor and address facility needs, attendance, transportation issues, and scheduling challenges, as well as to supervise extra- and co-curricular events;

Whereas assistant principals are entrusted with maintaining an inviting, safe, and orderly school environment that supports the growth and achievement of each and every student by nurturing positive peer relationships, recognizing student achievement, mediating conflicts, analyzing behavior patterns, providing interventions, and, when necessary, taking disciplinary actions;

Whereas, since its establishment in 2004, the NASSP National Assistant Principal of the Year Program has recognized outstanding middle and high school assistant principals who demonstrate success in leadership, curriculum, and personalization; and

Whereas the week of April 4 through April 8, 2022, is an appropriate week to designate as National Assistant Principals Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of National Assistant Principals Week;

(2) honors the contributions of assistant principals to the success of students in the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Assistant Principals Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role played by assistant principals in school leadership and ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education.

SENATE RESOLUTION 587—HONORING THE MEMORY OF JEREIMA “JERI” BUSTAMANTE ON THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF HER PASSING

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 587

Whereas Jereima “Jeri” Bustamante (referred to in this preamble as “Jeri Bustamante”) lived the American Dream;

Whereas, after moving from Panama to the United States with her family, Jeri Bustamante—

(1) attended Miami Beach Senior High School; and

(2) earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Communication and Media Sciences and a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Florida International University;

Whereas Jeri Bustamante had a tireless work ethic and a passion for communication and paid for her education by working while enrolled in school;

Whereas that tireless work ethic propelled Jeri Bustamante to professional success, beginning with an internship at a Miami television station and culminating in a period of service as press secretary to Governor Rick Scott;

Whereas the enthusiasm, compassion, tenacity, and vibrant energy of Jeri Bustamante are greatly missed by her family, friends, and coworkers;

Whereas the spirit of Jeri Bustamante lives on through the Jereima Bustamante Memorial Scholarship, which aims to help graduates of Miami Beach Senior High School achieve their goals and pursue the American Dream through a college education; and

Whereas April 8, 2022, marks 4 years since the life of Jeri Bustamante was tragically cut short in a fatal boating accident: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and memory of Jereima “Jeri” Bustamante (referred to in this resolution as “Jeri Bustamante”);

(2) offers heartfelt condolences to the family, loved ones, and friends of Jeri Bustamante;

(3) recognizes that living the American Dream remains possible for any individual who, following the example of Jeri Bustamante, works hard to pursue and achieve a goal; and

(4) encourages the recipients of the Jereima Bustamante Memorial Scholarship to carry on the legacy of Jeri Bustamante.

SENATE RESOLUTION 588—DESIGNATING APRIL 2022 AS “FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH”

Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the

following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 588

Whereas, according to the 2020 report entitled “Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households” by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, economic distress from the COVID-19 pandemic was evident when analyzing the self-assessments of individuals with respect to their financial trajectories over the past year;

Whereas, according to the 2019 report entitled “How America Banks: Household Use of Banking and Financial Services” by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, approximately 5.4 percent of households in the United States are unbanked and, therefore, have limited or no access to savings, lending, and other basic financial services;

Whereas, according to the 2021 Consumer Financial Literacy and Preparedness Survey of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling and Wells Fargo—

(1) 47 percent of the general population in the United States report having credit card debt;

(2) 38 percent of adults in the United States report carrying credit card balances from month-to-month; and

(3) 44 percent of the general population in the United States have a budget and keep close track of expenses, such as food, housing, and entertainment;

Whereas, according to a report entitled “Financial Capability of Adults with Disabilities” by the National Disability Institute and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, people with disabilities were more likely to struggle with the key components of financial capability, which are making ends meet, planning ahead, managing financial products, and financial knowledge and decision making, and could benefit from targeted financial education;

Whereas, according to the statistical release of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the fourth quarter of 2021 entitled “Household Debt and Credit”—

(1) outstanding household debt in the United States has been increasing steadily since 2013 and was \$414,000,000,000 higher than at the end of 2019; and

(2) outstanding student loan balances have more than doubled in the last decade to approximately \$1,560,000,000,000;

Whereas, according to the 2022 report entitled “Survey of the States: Economic and Personal Finance Education in Our Nation’s Schools”, by the Council for Economic Education—

(1) only 25 States require students to take an economics course as a high school graduation requirement; and

(2) only 23 States require students to take a personal finance course as a high school graduation requirement, either independently or as part of an economics course;

Whereas expanding access to the safe, mainstream financial system will provide individuals with less expensive and more secure options for managing finances and building wealth;

Whereas quality personal financial education is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared—

(1) to make sound money management decisions about credit, debt, insurance, financial transactions, and planning for the future;

(2) to become responsible workers, heads of household, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens;

Whereas financial education in schools in the United States is critical to a long-term financial inclusion strategy to reach stu-

dents who are not able to get sufficient personal finance guidance at home;

Whereas, according to the 2021 report entitled “Game Changer: The Evaluation of the JumpStart Financial Foundations for Educators Professional Development Program” by the Financial Literacy Group, teacher training regarding financial education improves student outcomes significantly, especially among historically underserved students;

Whereas increased financial literacy—

(1) empowers individuals to make wise financial decisions; and

(2) reduces the confusion caused by an increasingly complex economy;

Whereas a greater understanding of, and familiarity with, financial markets and institutions will lead to increased economic activity and growth; and

Whereas, in 2003, Congress—

(1) determined that coordinating Federal financial literacy efforts and formulating a national strategy is important; and

(2) in light of that determination, passed the Financial Literacy and Education Improvement Act (20 U.S.C. 9701 et seq.), establishing the Financial Literacy and Education Commission: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2022 as “Financial Literacy Month” to raise public awareness about—

(A) the importance of personal financial education in the United States; and

(B) the serious consequences that may result from a lack of understanding about personal finances; and

(2) calls on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and the people of the United States to observe Financial Literacy Month with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 589—RECOGNIZING, HONORING, AND COMMENDING THE WOMEN OF UKRAINE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM AND THE DEFENSE OF UKRAINE

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 589

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin instigated an unprovoked, unjustified, and unlawful war violating the territorial integrity of the sovereign country of Ukraine;

Whereas, in response to this invasion, the people of Ukraine marshaled their will to defend their country and shared belief in a sovereign Ukraine in order to resist the imperialist ambitions of Vladimir Putin;

Whereas every Ukrainian man, woman, and child has done their part to defend democracy and freedom in Ukraine;

Whereas women have played a key role in defending Ukraine, keeping their families and innocent children safe and responding to the invasion by the Russian Federation;

Whereas, in the first 6 weeks of fighting in Ukraine, more than 4,300,000 Ukrainians, of which the majority are women and children, fled the country in response to Putin's war;

Whereas women play a critical role in facilitating the transit of children to safety, including by escorting the children of parents and guardians who cannot leave Ukraine so that such children are able to find safety in neighboring countries;

Whereas the women who remain in Ukraine contribute to all aspects of warfighting, including by fighting on the front lines and as part of the territorial defense, delivering supplies and weapons, and preparing cities for assaults by the Russian Federation;

Whereas 17 percent of the armed forces of Ukraine are women;

Whereas the women of Ukraine have a long history of defending Ukraine and standing up for their rights and freedoms;

Whereas, following the 2014 invasion of the sovereign and independent state of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, the women of Ukraine joined the fight to preserve their independence;

Whereas, despite significant contributions to the war effort, outdated legislation in Ukraine classifies women as cooks, tailors, and administrative assistants, even while women were fighting and dying on the front lines beside their male counterparts;

Whereas women are an integral part of the armed forces of Ukraine and continue to defend their homes and their country;

Whereas, on March 9, the armed forces of the Russian Federation deliberately attacked civilian targets in Mariupol, Ukraine, which destroyed a hospital that served as both a maternity ward and a children's hospital, killing two women and a baby;

Whereas, following the devastating attack on the well-known and established hospital, the world watched in horror as pregnant women, mothers carrying newborn babies, and young children fled the rubble of what should have been a safe place;

Whereas the women at the hospital should have been celebrating new life and looking toward raising their children in peace and safety, instead, those women are seeking shelter in subways, giving birth in bunkers, and worrying for the safety of their children and the future of Ukraine;

Whereas the attack on the maternity ward and children's hospital in Mariupol was the third such attack on a maternity ward in Ukraine by the Russian Federation since the beginning of the invasion on February 24;

Whereas, according to the United Nations, more than 4,300 women have given birth since the start of the war, and 80,000 Ukrainian women are expected to give birth in between April and June of 2022;

Whereas all women, in every situation, have the right to a safe birth and access to crucial supplies necessary for the management of pregnancy complications, including oxygen and medical supplies, which are running dangerously low in Ukraine because of the ongoing violence and refusal on the part of the Russian Federation to allow for safe passage for humanitarian purposes;

Whereas the unprovoked attack on a civilian building constitutes a war crime under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, done at Geneva August 12, 1949, (commonly referred to as the "Fourth Geneva Convention") and should be investigated as such a crime;

Whereas the Russian Federation has deliberately attacked civilian infrastructure in Ukraine, including schools, hospitals, businesses, apartment buildings, and utility services;

Whereas the initial days of the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation have resulted in a disproportionate number of women and children seeking safety outside of Ukraine;

Whereas Ukrainian women and girls, like women and girls in all humanitarian emergencies, including women and girls forced to leave their homes in conflict settings, face increased and exacerbated vulnerabilities to—

- (1) gender-based violence, including rape, child marriage, domestic violence, and sexual exploitation and assault;
- (2) all forms of human trafficking;
- (3) disruptions in education and livelihood;
- (4) lack of access to health care; and
- (5) food insecurity and malnutrition;

Whereas the world has a responsibility to respond with care to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and in neighboring countries to address the specific needs of women and girls;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council adopted United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on October 31, 2000, acknowledging the impact of conflict and security decisions on women and calling on all member states to include "women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict";

Whereas, according to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (commonly referred to as "UN Women"), peace negotiations are more likely to end in a peace agreement when women and women's groups play a meaningful role in the negotiation process, and according to the International Peace Institute, a peace agreement is 35 percent more likely to last at least 15 years if women participate in the development of the peace agreement;

Whereas, in 2016, Ukraine adopted its first National Action Plan for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, and, on October 28, 2020, Ukraine approved a new National Action Plan for 2021 through 2025 in order to address the impact on women of the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and to ensure gender equality in the security and defense sectors of Ukraine;

Whereas representation of women in politics in Ukraine has increased steadily since the first parliament of an independent Ukraine met in 1990;

Whereas more than 20 percent of seats in the ninth and current Verkhovna Rada are held by women, the most in Ukrainian history;

Whereas women across Ukraine have made political gains in recent years, including in local elections on October 25, 2020, where 38 percent of deputies elected were women; and

Whereas women in Ukraine should be involved at all levels and in all aspects of leadership, negotiation, conflict resolution, and peacekeeping in order to ensure the most enduring peace for Ukraine and the region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes, honors, and commends the women of Ukraine who have contributed to the fight for freedom and the defense of Ukraine, including women who—

(A) are members of the Armed Forces Territorial Defense Forces of Ukraine;

(B) are volunteers, organizing and operating humanitarian organizations;

(C) are doctors, nurses, paramedics, and support personnel, providing life-saving services across Ukraine;

(D) have mobilized to assist the safe transfer of the children and other vulnerable individuals from Ukraine; and

(E) are public leaders, politicians, and diplomats;

(2) stands with the people of Ukraine in support of their fight for freedom against the Russian Federation;

(3) acknowledges the women who have risked their lives to travel through territory controlled by the Russian Federation, break siege tactics surrounding cities, and to ensure the safety of children and the elderly;

(4) commends—

(A) the bordering countries of Ukraine, including Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, and Moldova, who are accommodating more than 4,300,000 refugees; and

(B) the broader European Union for committing to provide support during the growing humanitarian crisis;

(5) calls on all countries to ensure that aid provided in support of refugees of and internally displaced persons within Ukraine takes into account the needs of women and the gender-specific risks that women face in seeking safety;

(6) acknowledges the important role women must play in resolving the conflict between Ukraine and the Russian Federation as outlined in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2016) and required by the laws of the United States and regulations of Ukraine;

(7) further calls on all countries to promote the meaningful inclusion of women in negotiations and decision-making at all levels, including security decisions; and

(8) commits to supporting the women of Ukraine wherever they are as they fight back against tyranny and work for the free and democratic future of Ukraine.

SENATE RESOLUTION 590—RECOGNIZING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 11 THROUGH APRIL 17, 2022, AS THE FIFTH ANNUAL "BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK" TO BRING NATIONAL ATTENTION TO THE MATERNAL HEALTH CRISIS IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF REDUCING MATERNAL MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY AMONG BLACK WOMEN AND BIRTHING PERSONS

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. ROSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 590

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Black women in the United States are 3 times more likely than White women to die from pregnancy-related causes;

Whereas Black women in the United States suffer from life-threatening pregnancy complications, known as "maternal morbidities", twice as often as White women;

Whereas maternal mortality rates in the United States are—

(1) among the highest of any member country of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; and

(2) increasing rapidly, from 17.4 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2018, to 23.8 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2020;

Whereas the United States has the highest maternal mortality rate among affluent countries, in part because of the disproportionate mortality rate of Black women;

Whereas Black women are 49 percent more likely than all other women to deliver prematurely;

Whereas the high rates of maternal mortality among Black women span across—

- (1) income levels;
- (2) education levels; and
- (3) socioeconomic status;

Whereas structural racism, gender oppression, and the social determinants of health inequities experienced by Black women and birthing persons in the United States significantly contribute to the disproportionately high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women and birthing persons;

Whereas racism and discrimination play a consequential role in maternal health care experiences and outcomes of Black birthing persons;

Whereas a fair and wide distribution of resources and birth options, especially with regard to reproductive health care services and maternal health programming, is critical to closing the racial gap in maternal health outcomes;

Whereas Black midwives, doulas, perinatal health workers, and community-based organizations provide holistic maternal care but face structural and legal barriers to licensure, reimbursement, and provision of care;

Whereas COVID-19, which has disproportionately harmed Black Americans, is associated with an increased risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes and maternal and neonatal complications;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted issues within the broken health care system in the United States and the harm of that system to Black women and birthing persons;

Whereas new data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has indicated that since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the maternal mortality rate for Black women has increased by 26 percent;

Whereas, even as there is growing concern about improving access to mental health services, Black women are least likely to have access to mental health screenings, treatment, and support before, during, and after pregnancy;

Whereas Black pregnant and postpartum workers are disproportionately denied reasonable accommodations in the workplace, leading to adverse pregnancy outcomes;

Whereas Black pregnant people disproportionately experience surveillance and punishment, including shackling incarcerated people in labor, drug testing mothers and infants without informed consent, separating mothers from their newborns, and criminalizing pregnancy outcomes;

Whereas justice-informed, culturally congruent models of care are beneficial to Black women; and

Whereas an investment must be made in—

- (1) maternity care for Black women and birthing persons, including support of care led by the communities most affected by the maternal health crisis in the United States;
- (2) continuous health insurance coverage to support Black women and birthing persons for the full postpartum period up to at least 1 year after giving birth; and
- (3) policies that support and promote affordable, comprehensive, and holistic maternal health care that is free from gender and racial discrimination, regardless of incarceration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes that—

- (1) Black women are experiencing high, disproportionate rates of maternal mortality and morbidity in the United States;

(2) the alarmingly high rates of maternal mortality among Black women are unacceptable;

(3) in order to better mitigate the effects of systemic and structural racism, Congress must work toward ensuring that the Black community has—

- (A) safe and affordable housing;
- (B) transportation equity;
- (C) nutritious food;
- (D) clean air and water;
- (E) environments free from toxins;
- (F) fair treatment within the criminal justice system;
- (G) safety and freedom from violence;
- (H) a living wage;
- (I) equal economic opportunity;
- (J) a sustained workforce pipeline for diverse perinatal professionals; and
- (K) comprehensive, high-quality, and affordable health care with access to the full spectrum of reproductive care;
- (4) in order to improve maternal health outcomes, Congress must fully support and encourage policies grounded in the human rights, reproductive justice, and birth justice frameworks that address Black maternal health inequity;
- (5) Black women and birthing persons must be active participants in the policy decisions that impact their lives;
- (6) in order to ensure access to safe and respectful maternal health care for Black birthing persons, Congress must pass the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021 (S. 346; H.R. 959); and
- (7) “Black Maternal Health Week” is an opportunity to—

- (A) deepen the national conversation about Black maternal health in the United States;
- (B) amplify community-driven policy, research, and care solutions;
- (C) center the voices of Black mothers, women, families, and stakeholders;
- (D) provide a national platform for Black-led entities and efforts on maternal health, birth, and reproductive justice; and
- (E) enhance community organizing on Black maternal health.

SENATE RESOLUTION 591—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 10, 2022 AS “VENTURE SMITH FREEDOM DAY”

Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 591

Whereas, in about 1729, Venture Smith was born free in West Africa and, in 1739, was seized from his home and enslaved in New England;

Whereas 257 years ago, in the year 1765, Venture Smith, at the age of 36, purchased his freedom;

Whereas Venture Smith went on to free his family from the bondage of slavery;

Whereas Venture Smith became a successful landowner, businessman, and author in the United States, generations before Black Americans began to obtain constitutional, legal, social, and economic rights;

Whereas, in November 1798, Venture Smith was the first African American to write and publish his own autobiography;

Whereas Venture Smith was the first person to write and publish the phrase, “My freedom is a privilege which nothing else can equal”;

Whereas Venture Smith died a free man on September 19, 1805 in Connecticut; and

Whereas April 10 would be an appropriate date to designate as “Venture Smith Freedom Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the designation of “Venture Smith Freedom Day” on April 10, which would recognize the 257th anniversary of Venture Smith purchasing his freedom and going on to become a landowner, businessman, and author in Connecticut.

SENATE RESOLUTION 592—DESIGNATING APRIL 6, 2022, AS “NATIONAL ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 592

Whereas assistive technology is any item, piece of equipment, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of an individual with a disability or an older adult;

Whereas an assistive technology service is any service that directly assists an individual with a disability or an older adult in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device;

Whereas, in 2018, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that 1 in 4 individuals in the United States, or almost 61,000,000 individuals, has a disability;

Whereas, in the 2019–2020 school year, the Department of Education reported that there were more than 7,300,000 children with disabilities;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that, among adults 65 years of age and older, 2 in 5 have a disability;

Whereas assistive technology enables individuals with disabilities and older adults to be included in their communities and in inclusive classrooms and workplaces;

Whereas assistive technology devices and services are necessities, not luxury items, for millions of individuals with disabilities and older adults, without which they would be unable to live in their communities, access education, or obtain, retain, and advance gainful, competitive, and integrated employment;

Whereas the availability of assistive technology in the workplace promotes economic self-sufficiency, enhances work participation, and is critical to the employment of individuals with disabilities and older adults; and

Whereas State assistive technology programs support a continuum of services that include—

- (1) the exchange, repair, recycling, and other reutilization of assistive technology devices;

- (2) device loan programs that provide short-term loans of assistive technology devices to individuals, employers, public agencies, and others;

- (3) the demonstration of devices to inform decision making; and

- (4) State financing to help individuals purchase or obtain assistive technology through a variety of initiatives, such as financial loan programs, leasing programs, and other financing alternatives, that give individuals affordable, flexible options to purchase or obtain assistive technology: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) designates April 6, 2022, as “National Assistive Technology Awareness Day”; and
- (2) commends—

- (A) assistive technology specialists and program coordinators for their hard work

and dedication in serving individuals with disabilities who are in need of finding the proper assistive technology to meet their individual needs; and

(B) professional organizations and researchers dedicated to facilitating the access and acquisition of assistive technology for individuals with disabilities and older adults in need of assistive technology devices.

SENATE RESOLUTION 593—RELATING TO THE DEATH OF KANEASTER HODGES, JR., FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 593

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., was born in Newport, Arkansas, attended the public schools of Arkansas, and then attended Princeton University, Southern Methodist University, Boston University, and the University of Arkansas School of Law;

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., served as a pastor at the Acushnet Wesley Methodist Church and the Long Plain United Methodist Church in Massachusetts in 1963, and served as a chaplain at Rikers Island Correctional Institution in New York City in 1964;

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., returned to Arkansas in 1964 to attend the University of Arkansas School of Law, where he was named editor-in-chief of the Arkansas Law Review;

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., joined his father and brother in Newport, Arkansas at the Hodges, Hodges, and Hodges law firm;

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., served his beloved State of Arkansas as the Newport City Attorney and the Jackson County Dep-

uty Prosecuting Attorney from 1967 to 1974, was appointed as legislative secretary to Governor Pryor in 1975, was instrumental in forming the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission and served as chairman from 1974 to 1975, and served as a member of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission from 1976 to 1977;

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., was appointed to serve as a United States Senator for the State of Arkansas by Governor Pryor in 1977 for the remainder of the term of the late United States Senator John L. McClellan;

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., served the State of Arkansas while in the Senate through his work on the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., was known by his colleagues in the Senate for his humility, diligence, and cooperation; and

Whereas Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., returned to Arkansas at the end of his Senate appointment and continued his career in public service by serving as a trustee of Arkansas College, now Lyon College, as a trustee and past chairman at the University of Arkansas, as a trustee of Arkansas State University Newport Campus, and as president of the Arkansas State University-Newport Charitable Foundation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., former member of the Senate;

(B) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate—

(i) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(ii) transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of Kaneaster Hodges, Jr.; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Kaneaster Hodges, Jr.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5023. Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6968, to prohibit the importation of energy products of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5024. Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. TESTER for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. MANCHIN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2687, to provide the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs testimonial subpoena authority, and for other purposes

SA 5025. Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. CORNYN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3823, to amend title 11, United States Code, to modify the eligibility requirements for a debtor under chapter 13, and for other purposes.

SA 5026. Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. TESTER)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1875, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a deadline of 180 days for the filing of claims for payment for emergency treatment furnished to veterans, and for other purposes.

SA 5027. Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. KAINE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 533, celebrating the centennial of Navy aircraft carriers.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5023. Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. SCOTT of Flor-

ida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6968, to prohibit the importation of energy products of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 5. TERMINATION OF GENERAL LICENSE NO. 8A OF OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL; APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS TO CERTAIN RUSSIAN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) General License No. 8A of the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury shall have no force or effect; and

(2) sanctions imposed under Executive Order 14024 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation) shall apply with respect to each entity specified in General License No. 8A.

SA 5024. Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. MANCHIN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2687, to provide the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs testimonial subpoena authority, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening Oversight for Veterans Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. TESTIMONIAL SUBPOENA AUTHORITY OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 312 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d)(1)(A) In addition to the authority otherwise provided by the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) and in accordance with the requirements of this subsection, the Inspector General, in carrying out the provisions of this section, may require by subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses as necessary in the performance of the functions assigned to the Inspector General by the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) and this section, which in the case of contumacy or refusal to obey, such subpoena shall be enforceable by order of any appropriate district court of the United States.

“(B) The Inspector General may not require by subpoena the attendance and testimony under subparagraph (A) of—

“(i) any current Federal employee; or

“(ii) any witness as part of any criminal proceeding.

“(2) The authority to issue a subpoena under paragraph (1) may not be delegated.

“(3)(A) The Inspector General shall notify the Attorney General of the intent to issue a subpoena under paragraph (1).

“(B) Not later than 10 days after the date on which the Attorney General is notified pursuant to subparagraph (A), the Attorney General may object in writing to the issuance of the subpoena if the subpoena will interfere with an ongoing investigation and, if the Attorney General makes such an objection, the Inspector General may not issue the subpoena.

“(C) If the Attorney General does not object in writing to the issuance of the subpoena during the 10-day period described in subparagraph (B), the Inspector General may issue the subpoena.

“(4) Before requiring by subpoena under paragraph (1) the attendance and testimony

of a witness, the Inspector General shall, to the degree practicable—

“(A) notify the witness of the intent of the Inspector General to issue the subpoena; and
“(B) provide the witness an opportunity to attend and testify voluntarily.

“(5) Whenever requiring by subpoena under paragraph (1) the attendance and testimony of a witness, the Inspector General shall, to the greatest extent practicable, travel to residence of the witness, the principal place of business of the witness, or other similar location that is in proximity to the residence of the witness.

“(6)(A) Along with each semiannual report submitted by the Inspector General pursuant to section 5(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 5(b)), the Inspector General shall include a report on the exercise of the authority provided by paragraph (1).

“(B) Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include, for the most recently completed six-month period, the following:

“(i) The number of testimonial subpoenas issued and the number of individuals interviewed pursuant to such subpoenas.

“(ii) The number of proposed testimonial subpoenas with respect to which the Attorney General objected under paragraph (3)(B).

“(iii) A discussion of any challenges or concerns that the Inspector General has encountered exercising the authority provided by paragraph (1).

“(iv) Such other matters as the Inspector General considers appropriate.

“(7)(A) The authority provided by paragraph (1)(A) shall terminate on May 31, 2025.

“(B) The termination of authority by subparagraph (A) shall not affect the enforceability of a subpoena issued under paragraph (1)(A) before the date of such termination.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (d) of section 312 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) SEMIANNUAL REPORT.—Paragraph (6) of subsection (d) of such section, as so added, shall apply beginning on the date that is seven months after the first day of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 5025. Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. CORNYN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3823, to amend title 11, United States Code, to modify the eligibility requirements for a debtor under chapter 13, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Bankruptcy Threshold Adjustment and Technical Corrections Act”.

SEC. 2. BANKRUPTCY AMENDMENTS.

(a) DEFINITION OF SMALL BUSINESS DEBTOR.—Section 101(51D)(B) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by inserting “under this title” after “affiliated debtors”; and

(2) in clause (iii), by striking “an issuer” and all that follows and inserting “a corporation described in clause (ii).”.

(b) ADJUSTMENTS FOR INFLATION.—Section 104 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “1182(1),” after “707(b).”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting “1182(1),” after “707(b).”.

(c) WHO MAY BE A DEBTOR UNDER CHAPTER 13.—Section 109 of title 11, United States

Code is amended by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e) Only an individual with regular income that owes, on the date of the filing of the petition, noncontingent, liquidated debts of less than \$2,750,000 or an individual with regular income and such individual’s spouse, except a stockbroker or a commodity broker, that owe, on the date of the filing of the petition, noncontingent, liquidated debts that aggregate less than \$2,750,000 may be a debtor under chapter 13 of this title.”.

(d) DEFINITION OF DEBTOR.—Section 1182(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(1) DEBTOR.—The term ‘debtor’—

“(A) subject to subparagraph (B), means a person engaged in commercial or business activities (including any affiliate of such person that is also a debtor under this title and excluding a person whose primary activity is the business of owning single asset real estate) that has aggregate noncontingent liquidated secured and unsecured debts as of the date of the filing of the petition or the date of the order for relief in an amount not more than \$7,500,000 (excluding debts owed to 1 or more affiliates or insiders) not less than 50 percent of which arose from the commercial or business activities of the debtor; and
“(B) does not include—
“(i) any member of a group of affiliated debtors under this title that has aggregate noncontingent liquidated secured and unsecured debts in an amount greater than \$7,500,000 (excluding debt owed to 1 or more affiliates or insiders);
“(ii) any debtor that is a corporation subject to the reporting requirements under section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m, 78o(d)); or
“(iii) any debtor that is an affiliate of a corporation described in clause (ii).”.

(e) TRUSTEE.—Section 1183(b)(5) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “possession, perform” and inserting “possession—

“(A) perform”;

(2) in subparagraph (A), as so designated—
(A) by striking “, including operating the business of the debtor”; and
(B) by adding “and” at the end; and
(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) be authorized to operate the business of the debtor”.

(f) CONFIRMATION OF PLAN.—Section 1191(c) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3)(A) The debtor will be able to make all payments under the plan; or
“(B)(i) there is a reasonable likelihood that the debtor will be able to make all payments under the plan; and
“(ii) the plan provides appropriate remedies, which may include the liquidation of nonexempt assets, to protect the holders of claims or interests in the event that the payments are not made.”.

(g) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE BANKRUPTCY ADMINISTRATION IMPROVEMENT ACT.—Section 589a of title 28, United States Code is amended—

(1) in subsection (c) by striking “subsection (a)” and inserting “subsections (a) and (f)”; and

(2) in subsection (f)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “subsections (b) and (c)” and inserting “subsection (b)(5)”; and
(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “needed to offset the amount” after “amounts”.

(h) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (b) and (c) and the amendments made by subsections (b) and (c) shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION OF CERTAIN AMENDMENTS.—The amendments made by subsections (a), (d), (e), and (f) shall apply with respect to any case that—

(A) is commenced under title 11, United States Code, on or after March 27, 2020; and

(B) with respect to a case that was commenced on or after March 27, 2020 and before the date of enactment of this Act, is pending on the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE OF TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO BAIA.—The amendments made by subsection (g) shall take effect as if enacted on October 1, 2021.

(i) SUNSETS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) subsection (e) of section 109 of title 11, United States Code is amended to read as such subsection read on the day before the date of enactment of this Act; and
(B) section 1182(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(1) DEBTOR.—The term ‘debtor’ means a small business debtor.”.

(2) AMOUNTS.—For purposes of applying subsection (e) of section 109 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (1)(A), the amounts specified in such subsection shall be the amounts that were in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 5026. Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. TESTER)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1875, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a deadline of 180 days for the filing of claims for payment for emergency treatment furnished to veterans, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans’ Emergency Care Claims Parity Act”.

SEC. 2. CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT FURNISHED TO VETERANS.

(a) TREATMENT FOR NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1725 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (h); and
(B) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsections (f) and (g):

“(f) SUBMITTAL OF CLAIMS FOR DIRECT PAYMENT.—An individual or entity seeking payment under subsection (a)(2) for treatment provided to a veteran in lieu of reimbursement to the veteran shall submit a claim for such payment not later than 180 days after the latest date on which such treatment was provided.

“(g) HOLD HARMLESS.—No veteran described in subsection (b) may be held liable for payment for emergency treatment described in such subsection if—

“(1) a claim for direct payment was submitted by an individual or entity under subsection (f); and
“(2) such claim was submitted after the deadline established by such subsection due to—

“(A) an administrative error made by the individual or entity, such as submission of the claim to the wrong Federal agency, under the wrong reimbursement authority (such as section 1723 of this title), or submission of the claim after the deadline; or
“(B) an administrative error made by the Department, such as misplacement of a

paper claim or deletion of an electronic claim.”.

(b) TREATMENT FOR AND IN CONNECTION WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.—Section 1728 of such title is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

“(c) No veteran described in subsection (a) may be held liable for payment for emergency treatment described in such subsection if—

“(1) a claim for direct payment was submitted by an individual or entity under subsection (b)(2); and

“(2) such claim was submitted after a deadline established by the Secretary for purposes of this section due to—

“(A) an administrative error made by the individual or entity, such as submission of the claim to the wrong Federal agency or submission of the claim after the deadline; or

“(B) an administrative error made by the Department, such as misplacement of a paper claim or deletion of an electronic claim.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such title is amended—

(1) in section 1705A(d), by striking “section 1725(f)” and inserting “section 1725(h)”;

(2) in section 1725(b)(3)(B), by striking “subsection (f)(2)(B) or (f)(2)(C)” and inserting “subsection (h)(2)(B) or (h)(2)(C)”;

(3) in section 1728(d), as redesignated by subsection (b)(4), by striking “section 1725(f)(1)” and inserting “section 1725(h)(1)”;

(4) in section 1781(a)(4), by striking “section 1725(f)” and inserting “section 1725(h)”;

and

(5) in section 1787(b)(3), by striking “section 1725(f)” and inserting “section 1725(h)”.

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF CLARIFYING INFORMATION FOR NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVIDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish on one or more publicly available internet websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including the main internet website regarding emergency care authorization for non-Department providers, the following information:

(1) A summary table or similar resource that provides a list of all authorities of the Department to authorize emergency care from non-Department providers and, for each such authority, the corresponding deadline for submission of claims.

(2) An illustrated summary of steps, such as a process map, with a checklist for the submission of clean claims that non-Department providers can follow to assure compliance with the claims-filing process of the Department.

(3) Contact information for the appropriate office or service line of the Department to address process questions from non-Department providers.

(b) PERIODIC REVIEW.—Not less frequently than once every 180 days, the Secretary shall review the information published under subsection (a) to ensure that such information is current.

(c) CLEAN CLAIMS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “clean claims” means clean electronic claims and clean paper claims (as those terms are defined in section 1703D(i) of title 38, United States Code).

SA 5027. Mr. MURPHY (for Mr. KAINE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 533, celebrating the centennial of Navy aircraft carriers; as follows:

In the preamble, in the fourth whereas clause, strike “have been the preeminent

power projection platform for the Navy and”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I have five requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022, THROUGH MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, finally, I would ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times and that, following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session. Those dates would be Monday, April 11, at 11:30 a.m.; Thursday, April 14, at 11 a.m.; Monday, April 18, at 4 p.m.; and Thursday, April 21, at 12 noon.

I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, April 21, it next convene at 3 p.m., Monday, April 25; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Brainard nomination; further, that

the cloture motions filed during today’s session ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 25.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 593, following the remarks of Senator CORNYN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Texas.

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Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, watching the wrapup by our friend from Connecticut and the Presiding Officer, I don’t know anybody who could argue that the Senate is incapable of getting a lot done in a short period of time, given the will. That was pretty remarkable.

Mr. President, nearly 10 months after the Senate passed bipartisan legislation to fund the CHIPS Act, we are finally inching closer to the finish line. The House and the Senate are moving forward to a formal conference process to supply the CHIPS Program with \$52 billion and make other investments in our competitiveness.

Yesterday afternoon, Members of the Senate and the House heard from administration officials about how important this legislation is. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo spoke about the economic risks of a weak semiconductor supply chain.

I might just pause here for a minute in case people are wondering why semiconductors are so important. Well, the fact of the matter is that semiconductors are essential to run everything from your cell phone to the most advanced stealth fighters made by the U.S. Government, the F-35, and everything in between. And during the pandemic and the mitigation efforts that we undertook, with kids studying remotely on their laptops, that would not be possible, nor would the Wi-Fi connections be possible without access to semiconductors. So these microcircuits have become absolutely essential to our way of life.

Over the last couple of years, manufacturers have had to halt production of the various products that they make, shift their offerings, or even lay off workers because of a shortage of these semiconductors, these microcircuit chips. Now, at the micro level, this disruption is having a big impact on consumers: empty car lots, backordered electronics, higher prices on home appliances. But at the 30,000-foot level, the macro level, this is terribly damaging to our national economy.

The semiconductor shortage has shaved an estimated \$240 billion off of our gross domestic product last year—

\$240 billion lost because of an inadequate access to these semiconductors, these microcircuits. Based on the way that things are trending, the strain is only going to get greater. Global demand for these semiconductor chips is expected to increase by 56 percent over the next decade.

If you think about it, our dependency on technology is going to do nothing but get greater and greater and greater; hence, the demand and the need for these semiconductors and the demand that will go up by 56 percent, it is estimated, in the next decade.

It is absolutely critical that we start investing in domestic, made-in-America semiconductors now to insure that we have the capacity to meet that need in the future. And it is not just our economy. This has a very clear connection with our national security.

Not only will the CHIPS Program, as it is called—introduced originally by the senior Senator from Virginia, Senator WARNER, and myself—this program will help us pave the way for new jobs and big investments in cities all across our country.

If you want an idea, a glimpse, of just what those benefits would look like, my State is an example of one place that will change dramatically as a result of this demand for these microcircuits.

Last fall, I joined leaders from Samsung, a South Korean company that has a large presence in Austin, TX, and they announced a \$17 billion investment in a new chip fab—that is what the manufacturing facilities are called, a fab, fabrication unit—in Taylor, TX, which is just outside of Austin. This facility is expected to directly create 2,000 high-tech jobs, as well as thousands of related jobs, once it is operational. And each of these fabrication manufacturing facilities will create a whole ecosystem of suppliers that will grow up around it. So the \$17 billion spent by Samsung for just this one fabrication facility will be multiplied by many times in terms of the economic benefits and the jobs created.

This is great news not just for my State, for Texas, but also for the national economy and for our global competitiveness. Our friends and allies are going to need a reliable chip supply, too, and I hope that we can soon send advanced semiconductors, made in America, to countries around the world.

Once this CHIPS Program is funded, I expect more announcements like the one I mentioned from Samsung to follow, both in Texas and other States across the country. We have already seen Taiwan Semiconductor in the process of building a new fab, or manufacturing facility, in Arizona. You have seen new investments announced by Intel in Ohio, along with the one by Samsung in Texas, and I believe there are more to come.

This legislation would open up about \$3 billion for each new or expanded semiconductor fabrication facility,

providing a huge incentive for companies to make this level of investment right here in America.

The potential economic benefits speak for themselves, but the biggest reason to pass this legislation is to protect our national security. Chips are critical components of far more than just the cell phones and washing machines that I mentioned. Advanced fighters, quantum computers, missile defense systems—you name it—5G, all of those rely on semiconductors. A single rocket interceptor like we have seen used in Iron Dome in Israel, knocking down rockets coming from Gaza, each of those interceptors alone uses 750 of these microcircuits.

An overreliance on other countries to produce these key components of our most vital defenses is a huge, huge risk. Yesterday, in addition to Secretary Raimondo, we heard from Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen Hicks, who talked about the immense national security risk that the failure to produce these most advanced semiconductors in America has opened up. Just to be clear, we produce zero of these most advanced semiconductors that we depend upon for the most complex technology, including our national security.

Our military superiority really hinges on state-of-the-art technology. That is the one thing that we do better than any other country in the world. If we can't produce these products because of a lack of chips, well, the risk is obvious. And when you look at who is producing the lion's share of the world's chips, you can see the danger to which we are very clearly exposed.

Now, I blame COVID for exposing these vulnerable supply chains, whether it is PPE or it is chips, but now, it is as plain as the nose on your face, and we need to do something about it.

So here are the facts. The vast majority of semiconductors are made in Asia, with 63 percent of the most advanced semiconductors in the world made in one place, and that is Taiwan.

Even more concerning is the 92 percent of the world's most advanced semiconductors that come, as I said, from Asia. But if that supply chain, both from Asia and Taiwan in particular, were cut off, it would lead to disastrous consequences. Unfortunately, this prospect is not some far-fetched conspiracy theory or doomsday scenario.

Xi Jinping has made no secret of his desire to invade and unify Taiwan with the People's Republic of China, even saying he wants to be ready to do so by the year 2027, just 5 years from now. But we can't depend on his stated timetable because he could do it any time he wanted to start that invasion and jeopardize our access to these chips.

We don't want to be in a position—where the belligerence of one nation impacts our most critical supply chains. The war in Ukraine has made that clear. Put simply, we need to bolster domestic semi-

conductor manufacturing, and we have not a moment to waste. Chip making is a very big endeavor.

A number of our colleagues and I traveled to Taiwan a few months back to Taiwan Semiconductor's facility there, where they, as I said, make the world's leading-edge semiconductors. It is a big operation, and it is highly automated and very complex and expensive. In order to build one chip, you need very expensive, highly advanced equipment; you need skilled workers; and you need a lot of time. It can take literally months to build a single chip, and that is assuming you have the facility and the equipment ready to go.

So it is clear, in light of this vulnerability that we have in this essential supply chain, that we have squandered enough time already. After the Senate passed our version of this legislation, it took 8 months to get it back from the House of Representatives. Even then, their bill fell short in nearly every regard. Rather than mirror the bipartisan process here in the Senate, the Democrats in the House negotiated a bill just among their fellow Democrats. In other words, it was a partisan bill. That type of legislating does not lead to good and sustainable results here in Congress.

The House-passed bill sends a whopping \$8 billion to a U.N. climate slush fund which has provided more than \$100 million to China. The entire purpose of this effort is to counter threats from China, not to bolster China's economy with taxpayer dollars. So it defies all logic to send billions of dollars to an unaccountable fund that could end up helping our chief competitor, the People's Republic of China.

The House COMPETES Act also added provisions relating to immigration, from creating new types of visas to removing green card caps. I am fine with having a discussion and debate and votes on immigration issues, but they do not belong in this legislation, certainly not in a partisan fashion.

In true fashion, our colleagues in the House who are the majority party added a range of handouts to their political base, especially organized labor. From massive slush funds to burdensome new labor requirements, the unions would have won big in this bill.

And, as I said, unfortunately, the House decided to undertake this effort in a purely partisan fashion, which leaves us with very little common ground to work with. I am frustrated, and I know that I am not the only one. There are Democratic Senators who have joined me in expressing their frustration over how slow it is to get this process moving. But it is more important to get it done right away so we can get the job done as thoroughly as necessary.

Well, there is broad bipartisan support for this effort. I have a hard time explaining to my friends and constituents that when the White House is in favor of something, when Democrats are in favor of something, Republicans

are in favor of something, the House is in favor of it, and the Senate is in favor of it, we still can't seem to get it done. But I hope that we will take advantage of this opportunity—now that conferees have been appointed by the House and the White House—to get the conference committee to work, to do our job, and to get this bill on the President's desk as soon as we can. I fully expect the final version to look very much like the bipartisan bill that passed the Senate rather than the partisan bill that came from the House.

I expressed to the Senator from Washington, Ms. CANTWELL, that I hope we can work efficiently and reach a final agreement as soon as possible. It is critical that we get a strong bill to the President's desk and finally back this CHIPS Program with funding and protect ourselves from this, really, almost existential economic threat and threat to our national security.

The bill has undergone a number of name changes over the years. It started out as the Endless Frontier Act. Then it became the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act. Then the House called it the America COMPETES Act. Then we gave it a new name: the Made in America Act. But now, we have a new name—and hopefully the final name—called the Bipartisan Innovation Act.

I hope we can work together to craft a truly good bill that lives up to that title, the Bipartisan Innovation Act, and delivers economic and national security benefits for all of the American people.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
APRIL 11, 2022, AT 11:30 A.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order and pursuant to S. Res. 593, the Senate stands adjourned until Monday, April 11, 2022, at 11:30 a.m., and does so as a further mark of respect to the late Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., former Senator from Arkansas.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 5:10 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 11, 2022, at 11:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

VINCENT GARFIELD LOGAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

BOARD, FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 21, 2026, VICE DALLAS P. TONSAGER, TERM EXPIRED.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

JAIME E. LIZARRAGA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 5, 2027, VICE ALLISON HERRER LEE, TERM EXPIRING.

MARK TOSHIRO UYEDA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 5, 2023, VICE ELAD L. ROISMAN, RESIGNED.

FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

ROBIN MEREDITH COHN HUTCHESON, OF UTAH, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION, VICE RAYMOND MARTINEZ.

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY COMMANDANT FOR OPERATIONS, A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U. S. C., SECTION 305:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. PETER W. GAUTIER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE COMMANDANT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF TITLE 14, U. S. C., SECTION 304:

To be admiral

VICE ADM. STEVEN D. POULIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS COMMANDANT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF TITLE 14, U. S. C., SECTION 302:

To be admiral

ADM. LINDA L. FAGAN

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE TO BE A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

SARA C. SCHUMAN, OF WASHINGTON

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR:

ALYCE CAMILLE RICHARDSON, OF MARYLAND
STEPHEN ALLEY, OF TENNESSEE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

DIANE JONES, OF FLORIDA

SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD

SHARON BETH LEWIS, OF OREGON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022, VICE ALAN L. COHEN, TERM EXPIRED.

SHARON BETH LEWIS, OF OREGON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 30, 2028. (REAPPOINTMENT)

FEDERAL HOSPITAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND

PATRICIA HART NEUMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL HOSPITAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE ROBERT D. REISCHAUER, TERM EXPIRED.

FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND

PATRICIA HART NEUMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE ROBERT D. REISCHAUER, TERM EXPIRED.

FEDERAL OLD-AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE TRUST FUND

PATRICIA HART NEUMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL OLD-AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE TRUST FUND AND THE FEDERAL DISABILITY INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE ROBERT D. REISCHAUER, TERM EXPIRED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 7, 2022:

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

OREN E. WHYCHE-SHAW, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DIRECTOR OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

JED DAVID KOLKO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

ARUN VENKATARAMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SERVICE.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MOHSIN RAZA SYED, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

GRANT T. HARRIS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

LAURIE E. LOCASCIO, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

ADRIANA DEBORA KUGLER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

STEVEN H. FAGIN, OF NEW JERSEY, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

KETANJI BROWN JACKSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ERIK KRISTOPHER RAVEN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

WILLIAM A. LAPLANTE, JR., OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION AND SUSTAINMENT.

WITHDRAWALS

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on April 7, 2022 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

CARLA RAVI KOPPELL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE MICHELLE A. BEKKERING, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2021.

DAVID WELL, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, VICE CHERYL MARIE STANTON, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 4, 2022.